GRAPEVINE
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Neighbors Join Together to Clean Children's Garden

Betty Parshall

More than 50 people came together on Jan. 19 at the Visitacion Valley Greenway Children's Garden to pull weeds and do some planting as a service project on Martin Luther King Day. More Pictures are on Page 9.

Wi-Fi Network Now in Sunnydale

Mayor Gavin Newsom recently announced the expansion of the city's "Network of Community Networks" free Wi-Fi network to residents of the Sunnydale housing development.

Outside Sunnydale's new technology lab, the Mayor highlighted the city's progress expanding free wireless Internet access throughout San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) developments and other affordable housing sites.

"To improve our economy, it is critical that we bridge the digital divide," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "The launch of this free Wi-Fi network at the Sunnydale housing development is another step forward in our goal of providing free Internet access to all San Franciscans."

Over the past year, the Department of Technology (DT) has created and coordinated the development of free wireless networks covering 2121 units at SFHA developments and at over 1200 units at non-profit sites. At the Sunnydale housing development, the city's Communities of Opportunity (COO) teamed with the technology nonprofit, One Economy to establish the free network.

"At One Economy, we believe quality information is central to quality of life," said Dave McConnell, senior vice president at One Economy. "We are proud to be part of this effort to use broadband to connect hundreds of families with the tools they need to improve their lives."

The free Wi-Fi network at Sunnydale was funded through the AT&T Foundation.

"AT&T is a strong proponent of broadband infrastructure as a critical component of our 21st century California economy," Ken McNeely, President of AT&T California. "We remain committed to doing our part to make affordable broadband even more widely available, so we're pleased to be able to partner with One Economy and the City of San Francisco on this important program in Sunnydale."

In addition to free Internet access, DT has engaged partners to ensure that residents served by the city's free Wi-Fi network, especially low-income and disadvantaged residents have access to complimentary training, low cost computers

Month Long Celebration of Black History

by Betty Parshall

Black History Month originated as a remembrance of the important people and events in the history of the African Diaspora. It was initiated in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodsen as *Negro History Week*.

Woodsen chose the second week of February because it marked the birthdays of two Americans who greatly influenced the lives and social conditions of African-Americans, President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Inspired by a poster on the wall of Two Jacks on Leland Avenue, I did a little research on the Internet to learn more about the many African-Americans who were talented inventors and provided many of the items that today we take for granted.

John Lee Love invented an improved pencil sharpener, the same kind of pencil sharpener that is still found in offices and schoolrooms. *See Page 9*

Sunnydale Planning Concentrates on Neighborhood Assets

by Betty Parshall

The second Sunnydale community planning meeting hosted by Mercy Housing was held on Saturday, January 10 at the Sunnydale Community Center. Over 40 residents attended the meeting, which began with statements of the objectives and principles of the city, Mercy, and SF-Hope in the rebuilding of the community.

"Mapping Assets," one of the publicized points of the meeting, was explained as taking a good look at what the current assets of the neighborhood are in order to preserve and build on what the residents like.

A power point presentation projected a 12 month schedule for the process. Residents were invited and urged to join a free bus tour on January 31 in order to visit other Mercy developments in San Francisco (and possibly others outside the city). This introduction to other sites can generate ideas of what might be applied in the new Sunnydale housing and community. The bus "tourists" will be provided with cameras to record positive and any negative impressions.

A February meeting will provide the forum for developing and enlarging on the list of objectives desired in the future. In March, there will be classes where a full range of subjects on design and development will be provided, followed in April by a week of workshops where proposed designs will be develop in greater detail. All of this activity and real work by the community will lead to the draft of a proposed master plan by autumn.

The principles and the objectives of the city, Mercy Housing and SF-Hope generated many questions and lively discussion. There will be no loss of public housing while there will also be affordable and market rate housing. There should be a high level of participation in the planning process by local residents. The development should provide economic opportunities for residents both during construction and when completed, since retail and other services are to be included.

The newly developed community will be racially, economically and socially integrated within the site and in addition with the greater neighborhood of Visitacion Valley and the entire city. Eight elements to be achieved include: safe streets, shops within walking distance, neighborhood gathering places both inside and outside, city services, ease of getting around, housing choices, a positive and special character of the neighborhood, and the perception by residents that the site is a part of the whole.

The presentation of these worthy and ambitious principles and objectives having been completed, the floor was opened for comments and questions. Two people present made very strong statements that residents should be extremely alert, fully self-informed, and very pro-active in deciding what they would like to see in the redevelopment of Sunnydale. While the presentations project very positive steps to a very positive new community, residents should require all specific commitments in writing. Residents were urged to form their own community group for determining community goals.

The meeting facilitator, Tonya Boykin, thanked the speakers and acknowledged that the kind of resident participation urged was endorsed and encouraged by Mercy Housing as mentioned in the principles previously listed. Several pressing concerns of residents were expressed in the Q & A portion of the meeting.

Safe transitional housing for young people is needed. What assurances exist that all residents will be guaranteed housing as the replacement of buildings proceeds? *See Page 4*

Metro High Continuing Applications

Metropolitan Arts and Technology High School, a public, charter high school located at 400 Mansell Street, is continuing to accept 9th and 10th grade applications in February for the upcoming Fall 2009 school year and would like to let the neighborhood know about a wonderful opportunity available for students in Visitacion Valley.

Called "Metro" for short, the free public college preparatory institution that shares a campus with Philip and Sala Burton High School specializes in project-based learning small class sizes, excellent teachers, nationally-recognized teaching methods, and a focus on arts and digital media, which is integrated into all of the subjects.

All courses are college prep UC-CSU approved. Graduation requirements meet the admission requirements for four year private and public universities. A full-time college advisor also provides support and personal attention to help students navigate the college admission and financial aid systems.

Each student receives information about college through the advisory program, especially in the upper grades. Metro offers SAT prep, college application workshops, financial aid consulting, campus visits, speakers, and fairs. Students also complete two semesters of a Workplace Learning Experience to explore possible careers and the world of work.

"Metro is a great choice for students and families who want to attend a performing college prep high school," explained Principal Glenn Dennis. "The school has a positive environment that supports student learning. Metro can help students access a quality education that has the possibility of transforming lives and communities."

Metro recruits teachers from some of the top universities in the United States looking for instrctors passionate about their craft who care deeply about students and like to work as part of a team.

More information is available at http://www.es-metro.org/. A school visit can also be arranged by contacting Ruth Medina, the office manager at 415-550-5920.

Ti-Ka Wallace at the U.S. Capitol on a cold Jan. 20 morning in Washington, D.C.

I Saw Barack Obama

by Ti-Ka Wallace, Second Grade Visitacion Valley Elementary School

I saw Barack Obama. My three favorite things I did on my trip are seeing Barack Obama live, seeing the Inaugural Parade, and seeing the movie *Hotel for Dogs*.

I saw Barack Obama live. I liked seeing Barack Obama because I have always wanted to see him. It is neat that I got to travel all the way to Washington, D.C. to see Barack Obama.

I saw the Inaugural Parade. The day of the parade was cold and my mom's friend, Kathie, drove us to the Metro train. My mom, my grandma, and I went to the parade from there. Joe Biden walked past me. Joe Biden is the new Vice-President.

On Thursday, my grandma took me to see the movie *Hotel for Dogs*. Emma Roberts and Jake T. Austin found an old hotel with two dogs in it. Jake and Emma have a dog named Friday. Jake asked Emma if Friday could stay with dog for one night. Emma said "all right one night Jake, one that's all."

I saw Barack Obama. My three favorite things I did are seeing Barack Obama, seeing the Inaugural Parade, and seeing Hotel for Dogs.

PS. Barack Obama writes with his left hand, like me. How do I know? My mom saw him signing papers on TV.

Grapevine Mailbox

More Bilingual Translation Needed in Visitacion Valley

Unfortunately, despite the 2000 Census fact that 60 percent of Visitacion Valley residents are Asians:

*If Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members don't have more bilingual Chinese representatives, why can't some caring CAC members keep us informed and involved via e-mails, personal contacts etc? Why only approach my group to support their causes and ask us to provide signatures for them?

*Why are their agenda notices in English-only?

*Why aren't minutes, even in English, of the meetings sent all these months to community members?

*If a Chinese translator is hired for only a few monolingual-Chinese participants meeting on Tunnel Avenue, why not maximize the translating effort (and cost) by having him provide a a brief Chinese summary of the minutes from the meetings?

*Why not involve the real community input of hundreds of residents by providing yearly trilingual community surveys?

*Why wasn't the Mayor's office aware of the huge Asian population in Visitacion Valley, and to make sure our group has equal representation and access?

*Since the mega housing developer, Universal Paragon Corporation (UPC) is benefitting from this huge project, why not make this and other developers more accountable to provide opportunities for language and other accesses to our sizable immigrant community? City agencies have provided some sporadic and sketchy attempts but most of the residents are still in the dark.

*It's impressive that 25 percent of this development is targetted for low income, but will the housing application process provide real opportunities for the limited-English residents to apply? In the past, two Visitacion Valley public housing groups in have tricked residents with this process before. A common ploy was to translate info in one or more languages (fooled lots of people and City agencies before) in their flyers but the phone contacts were English-only and different criteria were imposed to screen the non-English folks!

*Why are the SF Redevelopment Agency's public notices posted on the lightpoles on Leland only in English? Sure, the SFRA English-only agenda does state on the front page that " Requests for language interpreters at a meeting must be received at least 72 hours in advance..." How can monolingual residents understand it to make any request?

*The 311 phone line is really a blessing to our residents, but when will City Hall proceedings provide language access to the diverse viewers in San Francisco? Hopefully with the help the new chair of the S.F. Supervisors, David Chiu, there might be some hope for this civil rights change.

*Since Visitacion Valley has perhaps the highest home ownership (and the majority of them are Asians) who contribute to our City's coffer, why aren't we getting equal representation and benefits?

*Although Tom Evans, City Planner, formerly introduced Kai who stood up to be identified as the official translator of the proceeding, he didn't even acknowledge the monolingual parents who raised their hands for translation need! When I rushed out to answer my cell phone, they followed because they thought I was leaving the meeting! They complained that although the SFRA postcard indicated Chinese translation, they felt like deaf-mutes during the English-only proceeding! At first, Cindy Choy, leader of the CAA's parents' group was reluctant to speak up because she didn't know the formal process of filling out the speaker's card until I told her. In the nick of time just before the Chair closed public input, I asked for the commission's permission to get Kai to translate for Cindy Choy. These brave parents should be commended for their perserverence and dedication to many causes in Visitacion Valley! (Check SF gov channel to see when this and other English-only City programs are publicly-aired.)

*Sol of Arc Ecology gave a very detailed presentation on January 10 at 66 Raymond Ave. about his group's input to another mega developer. Lennar, in the Bayview District. He surprised us with graphic information of all the areas along SF's southeast sector that are targetted for housing developments. He emphasized they are the largest and last stretch of land in our City for such huge developments. So, since mega developers are benefitting from the use of our land, we must set a precedent to make them more accountable to our residents' needs and wishes, right?

*Will Universal Paragon accept our recommendation to provide ongoing and accessible communication with our community by installing a large trilingual electronic sign that keeps us informed & updated about their project and different demolotion/building stages?

*Few residents are interested in the details of the toxic removals because we feel our state has very rigorous and legal standards that the developers have to comply. However, Lila Hussain promised me in the December community meeting that she would try to give a one-page summary in Chinese of the Schlage Lock development to familiarize our residents. I gave her the skeletal formats already.

*As one of the community activists who has been attending community meetings for 20+ years, I can understand why residents are very reluctant to attend meetings. In the past, many groups appeased us with hopeful promises but seldom deliver. So now, we must demand respect and for all developers and and all groups to deliver their promises, right?

*Although around 1997 I applied and received $30,000 Enterprise funding on behalf of our community to provide translations in our only Visitacion Valley community newapaper, the Grapevine, the funds had to be returned to our City because the project could not get started. It is still the efforts of monolingual-English volunteers who donate their time to keep it going all these years. It would be ideal to get more civic-minded and involved residents in our diverse community to contribute their efforts.

In unity, Marlene Tran Spokesperson, Visitacion Valley Asians Alliance

Attention Park People

The City wants to hear from you about open space. Do you have ideas for improving your local parks? Can you imagine creative ways to build new open space in your neighborhood? In the upcoming months, more than a dozen meetings will take place throughout San Francisco, hosted by the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC) as the community partner for the Mayor's Office of Greening, the Planning Department, and the Recreation and Park Department. The Council is working with neighborhood groups across the city to solicit the public's vision and priorities about the future of public open space through a series of community workshops in January, February, and March.

The workshop series is the second phase of the Mayor's Open Space Task Force, a two-year process begun in November 2007, to delve into the issues and opportunities that will shape San Francisco's open space system in the 21st century. Three key outcomes from the two-year effort will be the development of a long-range Vision Plan, an updated Open Space Element in the General Plan (ROSE- Recreation and Open Space Element), and an Action Plan for the decade with specific strategies and ideas that can be implemented in the short-term. This package of vision, policy, and specific plans is being called the Open Space Framework.

Input gathered at the neighborhood workshops will help to inform the Open Space Framework, to be managed by the Mayor's Office of Greening. Those unable to attend a scheduled meeting are also encouraged to participate by either hosting their own meeting with neighbors at their convenience, or by completing a brief survey at http://www.openspacesf.org.

A 'Meeting in a Box' is available for all those who chose to conduct their own meeting, providing a guide for the host to easily lead a conversation with friends and colleagues, and to gamer important feedback about open space needs, challenges and ideas.

Results from all public feedback will be incorporated into the Action Plan for Open Space. In addition, a collective,-ranked priority list on open space issues will be created and presented to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and relevant Departments and their Commissions.

The Visitacion Valley neighborhood meeting will be held on February 28th from 10 a.m.-12 noon (location TBA). To RSVP or find out more, please contact Mike Kritzman, Open Space Program Assistant, mkritzman@sfnpc.org, 415-621-3260. More information and the complete meeting schedule can also be found at http://openspacesf.org/meetingpacket.

Senior Scam Stopper

Senator Leland Yee invites you to attend the Senior Scam Stopper event in Visitacion Valley. A panel of experts from various California agencies will take part in a panel discussion on consumer education and scam prevention.

The event is open to the public and free, useful material will be provided. For more information, call Arsen Sarapinian at 415-557-7857.

Senior Security at Home

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, senior citizens usually experience lower rates of crime. But when seniors are victimized, there is a 92 percent chance the crime will occur in or near their homes.

"As we age, our safety and security needs change, so it's important to take extra precautions to keep ourselves and our senior family members safe," said Steve Shapiro, director of product management for ADT Security Services. "Although statistics show seniors are less likely to be vulnerable to some types of crime, they are more likely than any other age group to be victims of crime in their own homes."

To help better protect America's seniors from property crime and personal theft, ADT has developed the following essential safety tips:

*Never hide keys under the doormat, in the mailbox or in a planter, burglars will go straight for these typical hiding spots to look for spare keys. Spare keys should be left with a trusted neighbor.

*If you decide to install an alarm system, consider one that is monitored for burglary, fire, carbon monoxide and medical emergencies. These alarm system features can be life-saving if you, or a loved one, become incapacitated while in the home.

*Install and use good locks on doors and windows. Good locks are the first line of defense against home invasion—it is also important to make sure your locks are in working order.

*Never give credit card, Social Security, phone card or bank account numbers to callers who ask for this information to "verify" prizes. If they have to ask for this personal information, it is a sure sign they are fakes – never give personal data over the phone, unless you know who you are dealing with.

*Recently there have been cases of seniors being targeted to send cash to someone posing as a grandchild. If you receive a call like this, you should always call the child's parents for verification, even if they say they do not want their parents to know.

*When service or delivery people come to your door, ask for ID and check with their company if you are still unsure. When in doubt, research the company by calling police or the Better Business Bureau. Reputable companies will have no problem with your request for more information.

Most importantly, Shapiro wants everyone to remember, "Thinking about home security should be a top priority, especially as we grow older and live longer."

Abuse of Disabled Placards Widespread in S.F.

by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, CPA

I've always been a strong advocate of people with disabilities and have worked to ensure their equal rights. Living in a big, busy city like San Francisco can be very dangerous for pedestrians and people with disabilities, especially without countdown and audible signals at crosswalks or when sidewalks are obstructed. Making sure that safety measures like countdown signals at crosswalks are replaced and maintained has been a top priority of mine.

Recently, a new issue that adversely affects people with disabilities was brought to my attention – the misuse and abuse of disabled placards. In a City with all too many cars and not enough parking, it's important that disabled parking is protected for those who are disabled and that people who are illegally parking their vehicles in spaces designated for people with disabilities face the consequences.

The widespread misuse of disabled placards has contributed to the already difficult parking environment in San Francisco. Between September 2007 and September 2008, 1,234 false placards were confiscated in the City and County of San Francisco. The number of disabled placards issued between 1995 and 2005 increased 122% while the number of cars registered between those same years only increased about 11 percent — it doesn't add up. To help fix this problem I've introduced legislation, Assembly Bill 144, which will make parking placard violations easier to enforce.

AB 144 – Protecting Parking Placards, will decriminalize the misuse and abuse of disabled parking placards and instead allow parking control officers to issue citations or parking tickets if abuse occurs. Under current law, it is a misdemeanor for someone to, among other things, use a counterfeit, forged, altered or mutilated placard. Parking control officers who currently issue citations for these violations require special training and legislative authorization. Enabling parking control officers to cite violators will ensure that tickets will be issued more frequently for misuse. By decriminalizing the abuse of disabled parking privileges, it will be easier for officers to enforce penalties, thereby ensuring that individuals who really need placards are protected.

AB 144 will also raise the fine for using a counterfeit placard from $250 to $750 per violation. This will offer an even greater deterrent to those people who are benefiting from the illegal use of placards.

For more information about AB 144, please visit www.leginfo.ca.gov.

Cash for College: The seemingly never ending rise in the cost of higher education continues to be a major headache for students and their families. Fortunately, California does provide some relief through the Cal Grant program, which offers graduating seniors and recent graduates up to $9,700 a year in free money for college expenses at both private and public colleges. For more information, contact SF College Access Center at 415-202-7944. The application is also available online at www.calgrants.org. The Cal Grant application deadline is March 2.

Award for Valley Violence Prevention Program

The Visitacion Valley Violence Prevention Program and Coordinator Michael Bennett were recently nominated for a 2009 Community Partner Recognition Award by the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement (ICCE) at San Francisco State University.

The award will be presented during a Community Service Learning Award Ceremony this spring for a "contribution to San Francisco State through excellence in student supervision and the support of community service learning.".

Bennett staffs the Violence Prevention Collaborative meetings and oversees the Weed and Seed Program, a federally funded program designed to address violence through creating better relationships between the police departments and the community. The police department receives half of the grant, for the "Weed" portion, and the community receives the "Seed" portion.

Built into this collaboration is the promotion of the "Community Policing" concept, which is in favor of more contact with the community on the part of the police department from top to bottom.

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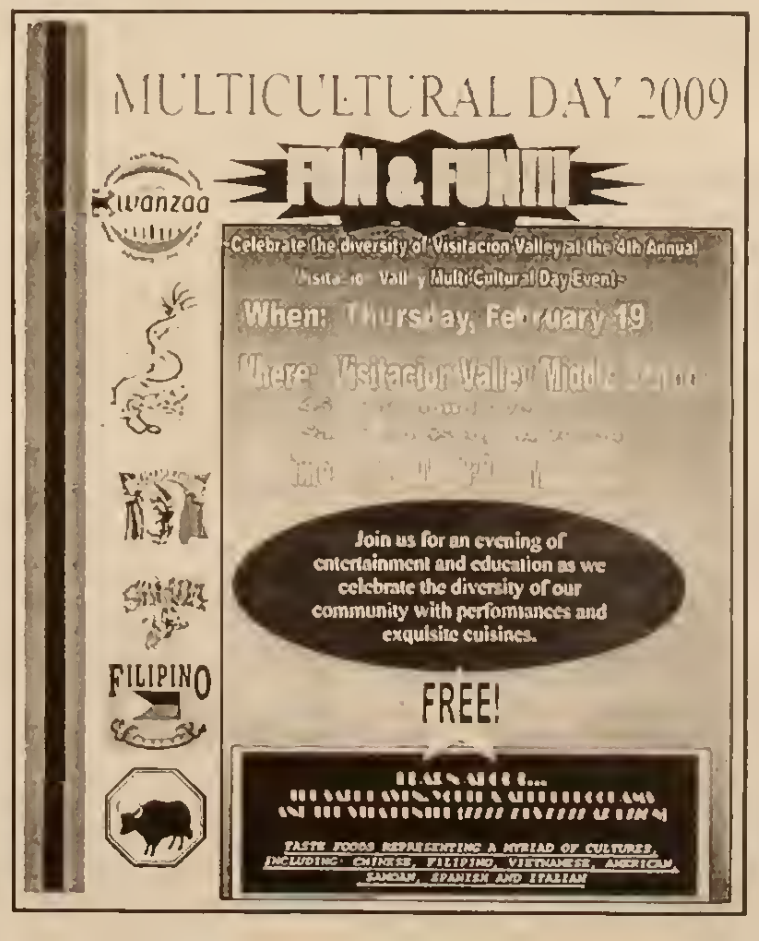

...from the desk of the VVBOOM newsroom

by Nick Wolff

What's all the buzz about? Did you know Visitacion Valley is a wonderful and productive neighborhood to raise bees? Larrie Gallagher does – she has three hives in her backyard. Furthermore, until last month she was Vice President of the San Francisca Beekeepers Assaciation. With gaad access to McLaren Park, sunny skies and numeraus gardens and greenways, Vis Valley is an ideal enviranment far bees. They gather nectar and pollen from variaus wild places nearby, suchas San Bruna Mountain, McLaren Park as well as fram local cultivated gardens. The newest Visitacion Valley Greenway Park with its vigorous native plans alsa seems to be a preferred hangaut far local bees. The wildflawers produce a very flavarful haney. Lorrie's hives are not treated with any products – the haney is raw, unheated and unfiltered. The haney is extracted exactly as the bees have praduced it, with only minimal straining ta remave bits af haneycamb. Many people prefer ta buy local haney in arder ta supart their local beekeepers, give as gifts ar as immune supart for allergy relief.

Lorrie has been a Visitacian Valley resident far nearly 10 years and is surrounded by "great neighbars." She is the latest local hame-based entrepreneur to take part in VVBOOM's "Micraenterprise Program."

Her delicious honey is available at VVBOOM headquarters – 91 Leland Avenue, via email: visitacionvalleyhoney@gmail.com or she can be reached by phone 415/467.B029. So support yaur local beekeeper by picking up a jar at 91 Leland Avenue.

So Long, and thanks for all the groceries. Super Fair Market (201 Leland Avenue) clased its doars for the final time Saturday January 31st. The longtime neighbarhaad gracery hub an the corner af Letand and Rutland Street is naw empty with anly its exterior shell intact. It won't be far much langer. The building will be destroyed in mid-March of this year to make way for the new Visitacian Valley Public Library Branch, which will begin being constructed in May. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new branch library is tentatively scheduled for the end af April. After construction is underway, it will be roughly anather year and a half to two full years before this state af the art (and environmentally friendly) library is fully equipped to serve the Visitacion Valley neighborhood. In the meantime, continue to utilize the resources (books, magazines, computers, and friendly staff) available to all residents at the current library located at 45 Leland Avenue. If you're wondering where to pick up that loaf of bread, gallon of milk or dinner side now that Super Fair Market is gone – downtown Vis Valley has you covered. All those items and much more can be purchased at any of the three main markets on Leland Avenue: Casa Lopez Praduce Market, 5B Leland Avenue; La Loma Produce Market, 65 Leland Avenue; and Shun Lee Market, 2400 Bayshore Boulevard (at Leland).

Gung hay fat choy, or Happy New Year. VVBOOM would like to wish everyone a (slightly belated, seeing as how it officially began Monday January 26th) Happy Lunar New Year!

Energy-Efficiency Tax Credits Save Money

by Jason Alderman

One of the few bright spots in the current financial crisis is that the government has reinstated federal tax credits for a variety of energy-efficient home improvements you make in 2009. They also extended deadlines for solar energy systems and fuel cell tax credits until 2016 and established new credits for small wind-energy systems and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

This means that you can not only take advantage of many products that are good for the environment, but also can save on energy expenses while lowering your tax bill. Here are a few highlights:

Home improvements. Tax credits are available for insulation, energy-efficient replacement windows, non-solar water heaters, and certain high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment. These tax credits are not available for new home construction; however, new-housing credits are available for photovoltaic systems that convert sunlight into electricity, as well as solar water heaters, small wind energy systems and fuel cells.

Energy-efficient cars. A new tax credit is now available for plug-in hybrid cars and trucks, ranging from $2,500 to $7,500, depending on battery capacity. And, credits are still available for certain models of hybrid gasoline-electric, diesel, battery-electric, alternative fuel and fuel-cell vehicles, depending on whether their manufacturers have yet sold the eligible number of vehicles. Go to http://fueleconomy.gov for more details.

The Energy Star Website, run by the U.S. Department of Energy, contains a comprehensive table showing which products qualify for the tax credits and where to go for more information (www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_tax_credits).

Even if you can't afford a new roof or hybrid car, there are still plenty of ways you can significantly lower your energy bills. For example:

*For every degree you lower your thermostat (or raise it in the summer) you can trim your utility bill by 3 to 5 percent. Bonus points for lowering it further at bedtime.

*Up to 30 percent of heated or cooled air can be lost through leaks, so add weather stripping around windows and doors and caulking around ducts, plumbing bypasses and other openings.

*Heating water is the third-largest home energy expense, so try lowering your water heater temperature to 120° F or lower (provided your dishwasher's manual says that's okay).

*Buy a programmable thermostat so you can lower the temperature when you're not home and heat things up shortly before you return. (The reverse works in summer.)

*Buy Energy Star products, which consume up to 50 percent less energy and water than standard models. Go to www.energystar.gov for information on finding local retailers, rebates and more.

*Use compact fluorescent lamps, which consume 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, last 10 times longer and save $30 or more over the lifetime of each bulb.

*Clean or replace furnace filters each month and dust refrigerator coils every few months to ensure more efficient operation. Also, clean the clothes dryer lint trap after each use.

*Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system to your fireplace to re-circulate warmed air; and always close the damper when not in use.

*Run full washer and dryer loads and use cold or warm water whenever possible.

*Run full dishwasher loads and use the unheated drying cycle if available.

*Turn off lights, computers, televisions and other electronic equipment when not in use.

Scaling back your energy costs is a no-brainer in these penny-pinching times – not to mention being good for the environment.

El Dorado Elementary School Happenings

Second Annual Spelling Bee Results

by Lori Fetzer

In the month of January, all students in second through fifth grade participated in classroom spelling bees in hopes of winning the honor of representing their class in El Dorado's Second Annual S.F. Chronicle sponsored Spelling Bee.

The school's Spelling Bee, coordinated by second grade teacher Pha Pha Hamilton and fourth grade teacher Jessica Chiachiaro, was held on Tuesday, January 27th at 1:05 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Class spelling bee champions included second graders Lajoy Spruell and Demora Henderson; third graders Ikahihifo Paea and Destinee Singleton; fourth graders Princess Calda, Olive Tambou, and Collin White; and fifth graders Anastaja Fullbright and Winnie Lam.

After several rounds and lots of wonderful sportsmanship, Winnie Lam spelled coincidence correctly and emerged as the El Dorado Spelling Bee champion. Winnie will go on to compete in the regional preliminary round spelling bee in February.

Inauguration Day Celebration

January 20, 2009 is a date that will go down in history, no doubt. It is one of those days that folks remember and later talk about where they were, what they were doing, and what they were thinking.

For the staff at El Dorado Elementary School, it will mean recalling how they immediately applied the new president's message to their daily work.

San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent Carlos Garcia encouraged discussion around how social justice can be made a reality at school sites – one of the goals of the new five-year strategic plan called the Balanced Score Card.

As a district-wide staff development day, staff, along with a few students and families, gathered to view the presidential inauguration on El Dorado's own big screen. About 30 people from the community were welcomed with a citrus salad breakfast treat and some stayed on after the inaugural address to discuss what Barak Obama's words meant for our children and our school.

Students, like third grader Eugene, talked about wanting opportunities to play organized sports and learn more about, and on, a computer. Parents echoed these sentiments and further added that they would like these opportunities for themselves as well.

Even before Obama's speech, the El Dorado staff had heard the call to take responsibility. Now, El Dorado Elementary School strives to answer the call of the President of the United States, Barak Obama, the District, the Visitacion Valley community, the families of its students, and the students themselves!

Sunnydale Planning Concentrates on Neighborhood Assets

From Page 1

What kind of rules will there be about who can live in the development, given the concerns about violence and drug activity that now exist? What about tenants who may be in arrears on rent due to job loss or other reasons?

The short answer to these questions was that at present such rules have not been established since there are legal questions to be addressed, but these issues will be addressed with community services to assist people in resolving them.

Several questions and comments came up about the number of units projected: how was this determined, and what will happen to the open space now enjoyed and endorsed by residents.

The number of units mentioned, although not yet set in stone, is 1,500. The number reflects the need to make the project economically feasible and thus attractive to private development funds, as well as realizing the principle of building a fully integrated and diverse community.

A representative of SF-Hope spoke about the lack of federal funding and the fact that Section 8 housing no longer is in effect. However, the San Francisco Housing Authority will require that 750 units of public housing will be retained throughout the development.

"You must be a tenant in good standing" raised strong reactions and a stated determination from several people to organize tenants to monitor the entire process and participate fully in making the decisions that will result.

Supervisor Sophie Maxwell was present and reiterated how important it is that the residents be involved by attending community meetings, organizing themselves to speak as a group, and attending Board of Supervisors and other city agency meetings to press their views. To the Mercy Housing staff she urged that meetings be well publicized, that questions raised be answered fully, and that agendas and the presentation materials be in print and made available early so that residents have time to read and prepare for meetings.

Minutes or a full report of meetings should also be prepared and distributed.

Additional comments from residents about the presentations suggested keeping the language straightforward and simple for clarity, and endorsed the Supervisor's suggestions about agendas and reports being made available in a timelier manner and in print.

The meeting then adjourned and all were invited to go across the street to 1657 Sunnydale where Mercy Housing now has an office that will be open Monday through Friday where people can visit and obtain information.

McLaren Park News and Notes

by Betty Parshall

Maintenance Notes

New tabletops for the group picnic area were delivered and stored months ago. The Friends of McLaren Park had volunteers lined up to do the labor or removing the old material and installing the new, and the volunteers do include experienced, skilled craftsmen. However, the Rec & Parks Dept required that one of their supervisors oversee the joh. The volunteers are people with weekday jobs. The Department declined to pay overtime to their supervisor for weekend installation. This impasse has finally (we think!) been resolved with the news that the Carpenter Supervisor of the Structural Maintenance Division was allowed to fill a vacant position, so has an additional carpenter and can start a crew of two, and possihly four carpenters to start the job in the near future. This will allow the volunteers to participate when they can, and the project can continue without them if necessary.

Asphalt walking paths have seriously deteriorated on the hillside between the tennis courts and McNabb Lake. Tree roots have caused bulges and cracks and pose a hazard to walkers. Although there may be maintenance funds in the budget, Rec & Park says this is a capital improvement, not maintenance, and there are no capital funds available. The Friends will look into whether path repair can he funded from available bond money.

Giant Sequoias Found

Many regular park walkers know volunteer Elbert who tirelessly cuts back overgrown blackberry bushes and pulls up choking ivy as well as other invasive non-native plants. Hacking away at one site, he was joined by neighbor Louis, who joined in the effort to not only bundle the berry branches, but to clean up what was an informal camp site. Easy chairs, rugs, blankets and other assorted garbage have been removed with the help of park personnel. Louis trimmed the lower branches of the evergreen trees to improve visibility throughout the area as a deterrent to another campsite setup, and in doing so discovered that we have a grove of giant sequoias. Due to the location the trees will probably not reach the heights of Yosemite's famous groves, nevertheless they are doing well. McLaren Park thus has three varieties of redwoods, the coast redwood, the giant sequoia, and the dawn redwood, which is very different from the former two because it is deciduous. It seems there is always something new to discover in McLaren Park.

Bird Watch

This is a good time of the year to see occasional visitors to the park At McNabb Lake about a dozen coots are back, along with one male and four female mergansers (easy to distinguish by their Mohawk head feathers),a couple of buffleheads, and, new this year, an American widgeon. If you are a birdwatcher, take a walk around the lake and enjoy the sights.

Can Parking and *eeing Be Improved?

Recently Friends president Franco Mancini wrote to our district park manager James Threat about three issues. Here are the issues and the response:

1) The Yosemite marsh restrooms are not always open. On a recent work day about 30 people were there to plant, and only the women's room was open, a disagreeable situation to many. It seems the custodian needs a reminder. Response: I will indeed speak with the custodian supervisor about this matter.

2) The amphitheater restroom is always locked even though this is a highly frequented destination and is serviced by a drinking fountain for both people and dogs. Humans are peeing in the bushes. (probably male. bp) Isn't there an agreement that all restrooms will be open during visiting hours? Response: I will direct staff to begin opening on a trial basis, and if there is no significant vandalism it will continue to be open.

3) Mansell tennis courts and amphitheater parking lots should be opened to provide off-street parking which will be safer than curb parking which forces people to exit on the street side. Response: Currently Brian (the park manager) and I are working on a plan to address this problem.

New Ideas and Plans

Burton High School has contacted park manager Brian to develop an engineering project. Possible projects might be improved waterways and permeable path development. Brian will coordinate contacts with the school and the Friends.

Announcements

The next "Community Gives Back" work day in the park will be Saturday, February 7, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The next regular meeting of the Friends of McLaren Park will be Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m. at the Louis Sutter roundhouse.

Congratulations to Vis Valley's Own Joe Leland!

Please join us in congratulating Russel Morine and Priya_Bakshi on their recent engagement. We wish them a lifetime of happiness. From: Djuna, Crezia, Hung, Katherine and Ti-ka.

Fond Memories of a Once Venerable Valley Market

by Russel Morine

Superfair Market, located at 201 Leland Ave., must permanently shut its doors to make way for Visitacion Valley's new branch library. The closing of the once venerable market is met with mixed emotions. While some rejoice at its closing, others are disappointed that the community will lose a shopping option.

VVBOOM's Program Manger Nick Wolff sees opportunities in the closure "While it's unfortunate to lose a convenient neighborhood grocer, you can't help but be excited when you envision a brand new, state of the art library of that size at the corner of Leland and Rutland. In the meantime, lets focus on getting some of those Supefair regulars to walk east a few hlocks down Leland into one of our three existing markets: Casa Lopez, La Loma and Shun Lee."

Superfair's seemingly random collection of less then fresh produce, vintage dry goods, and cheap liquors sealed its fate when the SFPL made the owners a tantalizing offer to purchase their property. Had the store been a thriving enterprise, it may never have been sold and destined for demolition. Irregardless of its quirky inventory, regular customers relied on the store's ease of parking, affordable prices and unique favorites that would be otherwise hard to find in the neighborhood (where else could you buy frozen lamb meat?).

Originally built from the ground up by the San Francisco based Cala Market chain in the late 1950s, the store was the western bookend to Downtown Visitacion Valley. The location, blocks off of a husy Bayshore Boulevard and in the heart of a thriving residential neighborhood, would never see such a large format market today. At 10,000 square feet, the original Cala Market served the grocery needs of Visitacion Valley for many years. Sadly, only the Old Guard (OG) can recall the store in its better days.

OG Betty Parshall fondly recalls the market in its halcyon days. "We were happy to have a supermarket in the neighborhood and we did a major weekly shopping there (between times getting bread and milk at Guttner's on Wilde Avenue)." She recalls one memorable incident, "One day I was in a hurry to pick up just a few items, walked down an aisle and then remembered I had passed the dog food. Turned around quickly and found my nose in the chest of a Hell's Angel. I said excuse me, and he just smiled"

Based upon conversations with Branch Library Improvement Project (BLIP) staff, the store should be officially closed by the end of January. Library facilities staff will subsequently survey the building to determine if all contractual issues have been met (all merchandise, shelving, and non structural fixtures removed). Next, the BLIP will contract with a qualified remediation and demolition company to demolish the building and prepare the site for the new construction. Demolition will likely begin in mid-March with the removal of all hazardous materials. The metal skin, frame and supports, and concrete foundations will be recycled offsite. During the demolition process, the site will be fenced off and secured.

The new Library was advertised for bid on January 24th and construction bids are due March 4th. The Department of Public Works will review the submitted bids and must accept the lowest. By late Spring / Early Summer 2009, construction on the site will begin. The new $5.5 million dollar, 8,700 square foot library will take 18 to 24 months to complete.

The Friends of the San Francisco Lihrary will initiate a fund raising campaign to coincide with a ground breaking ceremony when timelines are confinned. Although the construction phase of the project is funded by local Bond funds, funding for interior furnishing such as tables, chairs, and computers must be raised privately. Fortunately, the Visitacion Valley History Project began fundraising for just this purpose nearly two years ago. Through the sale of the one and only San Francisco history book to focus solely on Visitacion Valley (Images of American: Visitacion Valley) and by the selling of used books donated by the community at the annual Leland Avenue Street Fair, the VVHP will be the first to contribute to this worth cause.

For more information, call the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) 415-557-4354

Saturdays are Special at Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Workshops are $3 per child; $5 for a parent and child combo. All kids under 8 must be with a paying adult. Call 554-9600 for further information.

*Feb. 7: Make a Color Theory Collage as you combine papers from our abundant and colorful paper collection.

*Feb. 14: Make a sparkly, one-of-a-kind pop-up Valentine's day card to give to the one you love.

*Feb. 21: Delve into shape and color on a guided painting journey.

*Feb. 28: Cut and punch precious papers and glue and glitter a dazzling treasure bag.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

*Morning Family Ceramics from 10 to 11:30 a.m. ($5 per person workshop fee)

*Meet the Animals from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

*Animal Feeding at 12 noon.

*Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Affordable Housing in Visitacion Valley

John King Senior Community, 500 Raymond Ave., S.F., CA 94134, (415) 239-6233 - 90 units low-income senior residential housing.

Carter Terrace, 530 Carter St (at Geneva), S.F., CA 94134., (415) 584-4800 - Accepting applications for 50 and 60 percent AMI units only - Wait List. Must submit proof of income with application (i.e. paystub, Social Security printout, etc.), maximum and minimum income limits apply (min. is $27,253 and max. is $84,120). Directly pick up application or have one mailed to you.

Heritage Homes, 243 Rey St., S.F., CA 94134., (415) 333-9956 - Open Wait List (up to a year). Low-income family units at the S.F. AMI levels. Property Manager: Karim Sultan. Pick up application Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Britton Courts Apartments, 1250 Sunnydale Ave., S.F., CA 94134, (415) 239-1977 - Open Wait List (no available units at the time). 2, 3 & 4 bedrooms, 2-bedroom units at $1,272/month; 3-bedroom is $1,470; 4-bedroom is $1,640. Maximum income for 2 people is $45,000. No felonies or evictions within the past 5 years. Must go in person to apply. Property Manager: Kieleil-DeLeon Frazier

San Francisco Housing Authority, 440 Turk St. - studio, 1 BR, 2 BR, 3 BR, 4 BR. Rent is 30 percent of income. Applications available Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Seniors, veterans, homeless, and disabled individuals prioritized on wait list. Call 554.1200 for more info.

Visitacion Valley History Project

by Betty Parshall

There's an Awful Lot of **** Moving In

Last month this column provided a few anecdotes about criminal and hoodlum behavior in the "Valley of the good neighbor," which was one of Florence Friedman's favorite truisms. For those of more recent residence, Miss Friedman was an early neighborhood activist and the founder of the Visitacion Valley Community Center. She had a fine sense of the need for recreational and other social services and kept a strong and positive attitude to accomplish civic improvements here.

In observance of Black History month, it now seems fitting to recount a few stories from the 20th Century about Valley attitudes and prejudices, provided by our oral historians living at the time. Perhaps from these stories we can gain a more objective perspective on our neighbors and the times we live in now.

Sometime in the mid-1920s, an African American family rented a house located in the "upper Valley." When publican cock-fighting realtor Beefsteak Bill heard about this, he went to the house and told the residents they had twenty-four hours to get out. No more is known of the threats made, but the family did leave the neighborhood the next day.

In the mid-1930s, a Valley resident (my mother) was riding the Geneva Avenue streetcar back to the Valley when two Irish ladies sat down behind her. After greeting one another, the conversation went like this (names are fictitious):

"Haven't seen you for awhile, Mrs. O'Leary."

"No, Mrs. Flanagan, I don't get over to the Valley much these days. How are things in the Valley?"

(In a woeful tone) "Oh, the Valley's changing. Awful lot of Italians moving in."

Fast forward to 1980. Mom met an old Valley acquaintance (of Italian descent) and this conversation ensued:

"Oh, Mrs. Arnott, I haven't seen you in the Valley lately."

"Well, we've been going to the Safeway at the beach to shop, I don't get down the Valley much anymore. How are things?"

"Oh, the Valley's changing, awful lot of Filipinos moving in."

In response, when mom recounted the story of the Irish ladies, the other lady made an excuse and got off the bus they were riding.

A more positive story: In the 1950s a white couple who lived on Campbell Avenue came home from work one day to find a flyer from a realtor in the mail box. "A Negro has purchased a house in your neighborhood!! Sell now, before your property value plummets!" John and Mary Gunther immediately made up their own flyer to advise neighbors NOT to fall for this ploy, and in addition, knocked on doors up and down the street to talk people out of taking such action. The realtors' ploy had worked on some blocks but not on Campbell.

It seems there are always an awful lot of one group or another "moving in" and what does it bring us?

A wonderful diversity of customs, people, and (my favorite) cuisines. So here's to the diversity, to all the people from all over our country and the world who have settled in Visitacion Valley. May we all be aware that we're all members of one race, the human one.

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- 會在允許的時間內給你答案
- 介紹有關專業人士如工程師, 會計師, 律師為你提供 15 分鐘的免費咨詢

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Justyna speaks fluent Chinese (Cantonese, Mandarin and Shanghaiese). Anna speaks fluent Indonesian.

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Joe Leland around the neighborhood

*African American Owned Businesses: February is Black History Month. Celebrate the contribution of African American by making a special effort to patronize the following African American owned business in the community. JOE Leland Coffee Shop (28 Leland), Candlestick Coffee and Espresso (2155 Bayshore), The Shop (160A Leland), Body Soul Sprit (222 Leland), Verna Wallace Accountant (2320 Bayshore), Two Jack Seafood & Burgers (167 Leland), La Flue-Walton Real Estate Services (2428 Bayshore).

*What About Me?: So that no one feels left out, the Grapevine will recognize Irish American Month in March, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month in May, National Hispanic Heritage Month and German Heritage Month overlap during mid Sept- mid Oct, Italian Heritage Month, LBGT History Month and Filipino American History Month in October, National American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month in November. Mark your calendars accordingly.

*Palm Tree Plaza: The little plaza with palm trees and park benches at the intersection of Blanken and Bayshore does not have an official name. Henceforth, it shall be call Palm Tree Plaza. This plaza was created when Blanken was realigned as part of the T-Line Light Rail project. Palm Tree Plaza is a nice addition to the neighborhood, but with hindsight it is clear that it was poorly designed. Palm Tree Plaza faces its seating toward the busy Bayshore intersection. This results in a noisy open-ended plaza with poor sight lines. Had the designers flipped the arcing plaza southward, toward the main entrance to the Schlage Lock building, a much quieter and calmer enclosed space would have been created.

*Avenues and Streets: What's the difference between an "Avenue" and a "Street?" It turns out that there is no definitive distinction between the two (at least per Google). Characteristics that could differentiate them such as width, length, zoning, traffic volume are interchangeable. However, it would be safe to say that "Avenues" tend to have a more residential in nature while "Streets" can be any generic roadway. In Visitacion Valley, there is a directional pattern that helps distinguish the two words. Although not 100 percent adhered to, the trend is as follows: Avenues run East-West and Streets generally run North-South. There are expectations, in Little Hollywood all streets are "Avenues" regardless of direction. BTW, there are three "Drives" in the neighborhood. Can you name them?

*Speaking of Streets: New home sales are slow to nonexistent at Signature Properties' Candlestick Cove development. Yes, the "housing market" is in a historic slump, but here's a simple explanation as to why these homes are not selling. No one wants to live on a street named "Otter Cove," "Sandpiper Cove," or "Emerald Cove Way;" "East and West Crystal Cove Terrace," "Pelican Cove Terrace," "Seal Cove Terrace," "Diamond Cove Terrace" or "West Crystal Cove Terrace" At $600,000 plus, the prospective home buyers should not be ashamed to send out house warming invitations with direction to streets reminiscent of a marine animal sanctuary or a gemstone quarry. Signature Properties take note: "Lois Lane" is a great street name, "Otter Cove" isn't. A good name can't save a poorly conceived product but a bad name can tarnish an otherwise well executed one.

*Go Niners!: First the stucco came off and then the scaffolding went up. Weeks later the new facade of Forty Niner Cleaners (51 Leland Ave.) is revealed. The amazing face lift is crisp and clean, just like your freshly dry cleaned clothing. Another Leland Ave property owner and merchant making the investment to help the street and neighborhood look better. Be sure to stop by and thank the owners when you drop off you your dry cleaning. We will miss the remains of the old "Jay Vee" signage, but all things must change with the times.

Real Options for City Kids Give Back

by Sarah Schwartz
Elementary Program Director

This past December, participants of the ROCK After School Program at El Dorado Elementary School decided to give back by holding a fundraiser to benefit Heifer International.

Heifer International is an organization that works to end world hnger by providing a sustainable source of food and income to families around the world. People can donate money to purchase animals such as cows, pigs and chickens for families in need.

Through learning about Heifer, the ROCK kids were able to discuss and understand the difference between giving a family one meal to feed them for that night versus giving a family a continual source of food and money to sustain them in the long run.

The kids were very inspired by this idea and chose to raise money to provide one flock of chicks for a family in need. They understood that while a bucket of Popeye's chicken would feed his family temporarily, an entire flock of chicks could be purchased for the same cost and would provide a continual source of eggs and eventually meat.

The children brainstormed fundraising ideas and in light of the cooking unit they had been working on during the year, they decided that a smoothie sale would be the best bet. The goal was to raise $20 to purchase on flock of chicks by selling smoothies for 50 cents a piece.

In the weeks leading up to the sale, the ROCK kids worked hard to advertise the fundraiser to end world hunger by creating colorful signs and spreading the word in their classes Once the recipe was perfected, we were ready to sell.

The smoothie sale took place for two separate days during the students' lunch period in the school cafeteria. The turnout was great and the ROCK kids were hard at work peeling bananas, collecting money and passing out delicious fruit smoothies. I was impressed by the support for this cause within the El Dorado community; students, teachers and other school faculty were incredibly generous and we sold smoothies until our supplies ran out both days.

At the end of the second day, we pooled all the money we had raised and counted it together. The kids were excited to find that we had far surpassed our initial goal of $20.

Including a generous donation made by the Castenada family, the ROCK kids raised a total of $134.54 on behalf of Heifer International. While this amount was much larger than needed to purchase chicks, the kids voted to put the funds towards helping several families with the gift of one flock of chicks as opposed to helping only one family with a larger animal.

Needless to say, I am incredibly proud of the group of kids who so eagerly invested themselves in the cause of ending world hunger and helping those less fortunate than themselves. The experience as a whole was very unifying for the program and I know that each and every one of ROCK participants felt great about the change they had created in the world that day.

For more information about ROCK, please visit our website at ww.rocksf.org or call 415-333-4001

The Wall of Doors On San Bruno Avenue

Good neighbor Mark recently related the story of workers who stripped the siding off an old building on the 3900 block of San Bruno Avenue to find the wall had been entirely constructed of old doors in various sizes. Needless to say, the wall was truly a portal to the past.

Cooking Corner

Blueberry French Toast

1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened; 1½ tablespoons confectioners' sugar; 1 package (about 12 ounces) frozen French toast (6 slices); ¾ cup fresh blueberries.

In bowl, stir together cream cheese and confectioners' sugar. Heat French toast as package directs. Spread cream cheese mixture on French toast slices. Spoon blueberries over cream cheese on 3 slices; cover with remaining slices.

To serve: Place sandwiches on plates; cut diagonally. Garnish with additional blueberries and confectioners' sugar. Yield: 3 servings. NAPS

Crossword Puzzle Solution

L	O	G	■	W	A	A	C	■	A	P	O	D
A	B	A	■	H	E	M	A	■	N	E	R	A
I	I	I	■	I	I	E	A	■	K	N	O	B
C	A	I	A	N	■	■	M	A	L	E	■	■
■	■	■	F	E	I	E	■	B	E	L	L	E
M	O	H	R	■	U	R	A	L	■	O	E	C
A	L	I	■	I	R	A	C	E	■	P	A	H
H	O	I	■	A	N	S	I	■	P	E	D	O
A	R	H	A	T	■	E	D	E	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	C	U	A	■	■	L	Y	D	I	A
B	A	R	E	■	M	A	D	E	■	A	R	N
A	S	T	R	■	O	D	I	N	■	R	A	G
S	N	O	B	■	N	A	G	A	■	I	E	L

Book Review

Stopping Arguments

Though there is much anecdotal discussion, watercooler gossip and internet chatter about passive-aggressive behavior, there is very little published on the topic.

The Angry Smile: The Psychology of Passive Aggressive Behavior in Families, Schools and Workplaces, Second Edition by by Dr. Nicholas James Long (Pro-Ed, $23.85) fills a void in the published psychology of passive aggressive behavior, using real-world examples and practical strategies to which audiences can easily relate.

The Angry Smile comprehensively examines passive-aggressive behavior in children, adolescents, and adults within families, school settings, and the workplace. This revised and enhanced update to the text first published in 2001 widely broadens its original scope from just children and teachers to passive-aggressive interactions across the lifespan. Brand new chapters on passive aggressive behavior in marriage, extended family, and the workplace open The Angry Smile to husbands and wives, fathers and sons, mothers-in-law and anyone daring to face them, as well as Human Resources managers, supervisors, employees, and general audiences everywhere!

What makes The Angry Smile so valuable is the roadmap it provides for not only understanding the nature of passive-aggressive behavior, but for effectively confronting it. Part 1 of the book, What is Passive Aggression? explores the historical roots of the term as well as related anger-management styles such as aggression, assertiveness, and passivity. It describes specific developmental pathways to passive aggressive behaviors as well as the reasons why people use passive aggressive behavior in a variety of situations and contexts. The highlight of this section is the classification of passive aggressive behavior into five distinct (and increasingly pathological) levels.

Part 2, Identifying Passive Aggressive Behaviors examines passive aggression in the home, school, marriage and extended family, and in the workplace at each distinct level Each chapter features relatable, real-world examples of passive aggressive behavior among children, adolescents, and adults.

Part 3, Changing Passive Aggressive Behavior introduces the new psychology of passive aggression, explaining such concepts as counter-passive aggression and the Passive Aggressive Conflict Cycle. This section also defines eight specific skills for responding to passive aggressive behavior, with an emphasis on self-awareness and self-management.

The final chapter of the book outlines the powerful skills of Benign Confrontation – a how-to feature that busy professionals and weary recipients of the passive aggressor's sugarcoated hostility will not want to miss! This six-step process put the complex skills of managing passive aggressive behavior into easy-to-read, easy-to-relate to terms that teachers, parents, adult children, spouses, family members, bosses, employees, co-workers, and professionals everywhere can use.

The six-step process of Benign Confrontation (recognize the patterns, refuse to engage, affirm the anger, manage the denial, revisit the thought, identify areas of competence) equips readers to unmask the hidden anger of a passive-aggressive person, change the destructive nature of this behavioral pattern, and strengthen the relationship in the long-term.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Report on Part Time Workers

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Issues in Labor Statistics explores involuntary or underemployed part-time workers. It provides insight into labor market developments and gives a wide range of data on workers employed only part time for economic reasons in both current and historical terms.

Key characteristics concerning part-time workers:

*In November, 7.3 million workers were employed part time for economic reasons, up from a recent low of 3.9 million in April 2006.

*84 percent of the increase in involuntary part-time employment occurred among workers aged 25 and older.

*Increases in involuntary part time workers were concentrated in the retail trade, food service and construction industries.

*Increases in involuntary part time workers is leading indictor of economic decline as employers tend to reduce worker's hours before implementing layoffs.

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EarthTalk

What About Rising Seas?

Dear EarthTalk: With all the talk of rising seas, what could happen to the rivers that flow into the oceans? Will they reverse flow? Will rising seas back up into fresh water lakes? And what happens to our groundwater should saltwater flow backwards into it? - Sandy Smith, concerned Michigander

The intrusion of saltwater from the sea into rivers and groundwater is a serious issue, but the threat is not from a reversal of flow, and our far inland lakes and rivers are not expected to be directly affected by the salty water of our oceans. However, the sensitive areas around the edges of our continents, where fresh water meets salt water, are at risk, and greater efforts must be taken to protect them. Some 40 percent of world population lives less than 40 miles (60 kilometers) from the shoreline.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global average sea levels should rise eight to 34 inches by the year 2100, a much faster pace than the four to 10 inch increase of the past century. Seas rise because of higher global temperatures, melting mountain glaciers and polar ice caps, and other factors. Higher temperatures also cause thermal expansion of ocean water, intensifying the problem.

Rising sea levels cause major problems as they erode and flood coastlines and, yes, as they mix salt water with fresh. A November 2007 article in ScienceDaily posited that coastal communities could face significant losses in fresh water supplies as saltwater intrudes inland. And whereas it had been previously assumed that salty water could only intrude underground as far as it did above ground, new studies show that in some cases salt water can go 50 percent further inland underground than it does above ground.

Salty water invading groundwater can reach not only residential water supplies but intakes for agricultural irrigation and industrial uses, as well. Economic effects include loss of coastal fisheries and other industries, coastal protection costs, and the loss of once-valuable coastal property as people move inland.

Estuaries at the mouths of rivers have in the past handled rising ocean levels. Sediment that accumulates along the edge of an estuary can raise the level of the land as the sea levels rise. And mangrove swamps, which buffer many a coastal zone around the world, flourish in brackish conditions. But because of our preference for living in coastal areas, and our habit of re-engineering our surroundings accordingly, humans make matters worse by preventing natural processes from managing the change. On the coast, we build roads and buildings, and replace natural buffers like mangrove swamps with dikes and bulkheads to control flooding, which make the problem worse by preventing beach sediment from collecting. And as we dam rivers and create reservoirs, we trap the sediment that would naturally flow down to the sea.

In some places, changes are happening. Governments are beginning to restrict or prohibit building in setback zones along the coast where risk of erosion is the greatest. A newer policy of "rolling easements" is also being tried, where developers are allowed to build in restricted zones but will be required to remove the structures if and when they become threatened by erosion. The IPCC recommends more drastic actions, such as creating more marshes and wetlands as buffers against the rising level of the sea, and migrating populations and industry away from coastlines altogether.

Dear EarthTalk: Is it better to drive an older, well-maintained car that gets about 25 miles per gallon, or to buy a new car that gets about 35 miles per gallon? - Edward Peabody, via e-mail

It definitely makes more sense from a green perspective to keep your old car running and well-maintained as long as you can – especially if it's getting such good mileage. There are significant environmental costs to both manufacturing a new automobile and adding your old car to the ever-growing collective junk heap.

A 2004 analysis by Toyota found that as much as 28 percent of the carbon dioxide emissions generated during the lifecycle of a typical gasoline-powered car can occur during its manufacture and its transportation to the dealer; the remaining emissions occur during driving once its new owner takes possession. An earlier study by Seikei University in Japan put the pre-purchase number at 12 percent.

Regardless of which conclusion is closer to the truth, your current car has already passed its manufacture and transport stage, so going forward the relevant comparison has only to do with its remaining footprint against that of a new car's manufacture/transport and driver's footprint – not to mention the environmental impact of either disposing of your old car or selling it to a new owner who will continue to drive it. There are environmental impacts, too, even if your old car is junked, dismantled and sold for parts.

And don't forget that the new hybrids – despite lower emissions and better gas mileage – actually have a much larger environmental impact in their manufacture, compared to non-hybrids. The batteries that store energy for the drive train are no friend to the environment – and having two engines under one hood increases manufacturing emissions. And all-electric vehicles are only emission-free if the outlet providing the juice is connected to a renewable energy source, not a coal-burning power plant, as is more likely.

If you want to assess your current car's fuel efficiency or emissions, there are many services available online. The government website FuelEconomy.gov provides fuel efficiency stats for hundreds of different vehicles dating back to 1985. Websites TrackYourGasMileage.com and MPGTune.com can help you track your mileage and provide ongoing tips to improve fuel efficiency for your specific make and model vehicle. MyMileMarker.com takes it a step further, making projections about annual mileage, fuel costs and fuel efficiency based on your driving habits. If you have an iPhone, you can keep track of your car's carbon footprint with the new "Greenmeter App" from Hunter Research and Technologies. The program uses numerous variables to make its calculations on-the-go as you drive, including weather conditions, cost of fuel, vehicle weight, and more.

If you simply must change your vehicle, be it for fuel efficiency or any other reason, one option is to simply buy a used car that gets better gas mileage than your existing one. There's much to be said, from many environmental vantage points, about postponing replacement purchases – of anything, not just cars – to keep what's already made out of the waste stream and to delay the additional environmental costs of making something new.

Nation's First Green Rental Car Program Launching at SFO

San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is launching the nation's first Green Rental Car program that rewards customers for renting "green" alternative-fueled vehicles and rental car companies for increasing rentals of high mileage and alternative-fuel vehicles. The innovative incentive program is expected to eliminate more than 4,000 tons of CO2 emissions each year.

"San Francisco is a leader in developing creative, sustainable programs that benefit the environment," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "The Green Rental Car program is an innovative, market-based incentive program that will produce very tangible results in a short period of time. The benefits of this program extend far and wide – travelers, rental car agencies and the environment all gain through this program."

Customers who rent hybrid cars that achieve an EPA rating of 18 or higher will receive a $15 discount at the counter. Cars in this category include the Honda Civic Hybrid, Nissan Altima Hybrid or Toyota Prius.

Likewise, airport rental car companies will qualify for a 20 percent reduction of their airport rent fees if they achieve a goal of increasing the percentage of their overall transactions to 15 percent for rentals of hybrid cars or high mileage vehicles – those with an EPA rating of 17 or higher. Cars in this category include the Toyota Camry, Honda Accord and Ford Focus, as well as the hybrid cars. By offering these incentives to customers and rental car companies, SFO hopes to increase the total number of high mileage and hybrid cars in the rental fleet to more than 15 percent.

"The Green Rental Car program is the first of several green initiatives the airport is rolling out in 2009," said John L. Martin, Director of San Francisco International Airport. "We're committed to making SFO the sustainable airport of choice for California travelers."

Visitacion Valley Police Report

Police Cases

*On Dec. 25 at 5 p.m. on the 200 block of Hahn Street, officers heard shots fired and saw a teenager that they knew running from them. They found a 46 year-old Sunnydale man with gunshot wounds. A surveillance was held at the suspect's home and he was arrested at his door about two hours later.

*On Dec. 26 at 12:30 a.m. on the 200 block of Teddy Avenue, a 31 year-old Visitacion Valley woman was robbed of her purse at her doorway. The robber was described as a black male in his early 20s, wearing dark clothing. At 3:30 a.m. at Mansell and Brussels streets, an officer investigated a collision where in a 25 year-old Antioch man drove on the sidewalk and injured himself and his passenger while colliding with a building and a tree. The driver held many bags of cocaine, too. He was charged with felony DUI and possession of narcotics for sale.

*On Dec. 28 at 4:58 a.m. on the 200 block of Gottengin Street, an officer spoke with a victim who stated that he was outside moving his car, when two suspects approached him from behind, pointed a gun to his head and demanded money. The victim yelled to his wife to give the suspects money. The wife ran around the house gathering money and managed to call for police. The suspects took the money and fled the area. Officers were unable to locate the suspects. No one was injured during the incident. At 7 p.m. on the first block of Raymond Avenue, a 19 year-old Visitacion Valley man was thrown to the ground and robbed of his money by a black male in his early 30s.

*On Dec. 29 at 8:30 p.m. on the first block of Schwerin Street, a 30 year-old Visitacion Valley woman fought off her attacker and retained her purse. The robber had tried to pull it from her. He was described as a black male, 14-16 years old, 5'8" tall, 130 pounds, wearing a grey sweatshirt and blue jeans.

*On Dec. 31 at 3:50 p.m. on the 1700 block of Sunnydale Avenue, officers responded on a call of shots fired and found a 21 year-old Outer Mission District man down with a gun shot wound to his head. A police sergeant from the Gang Task Force took over the case.

*On Jan. 2 at 6:45 p.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnydale Avenue a police sergeant and posse found a 27 year-old Sunnydale man who had trashed his family's home and threatened family members with a large knife. The man refused to drop the knife and lunged at officers with the blade. The man dropped the knife after being hit with four beanbag rounds fired from a police shotgun. He was taken to San Francisco General Hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

*On Jan. 3 at 12:30 a.m. on the 600 block of Velasco Avenue, a 44 year-old Visitacion Valley woman was robbed of her coat and cash by two armed robbers described as black males in their early twenties. Both men were wearing black clothing. At 5:49 a.m. on the 200 block of Tocoloma Avenue, officers responded to a call regarding a person breaking into a car, and located the suspect. A witness told officers that he heard a loud noise, saw the suspect inside the car, and called the police. Officers also discovered a warrant for the suspects arrest for the same crime.

*On Jan. 4 at 6:30 p.m. on the 2000 block of San Bruno Avenue, officers were dispatched to a call regarding a robbery at a restaurant. Officers met with a victim who had two cuts on the bridge of his nose. The victim told officers that three suspects surrounded him, reached for his iPhone, punched him in the nose, broke his glasses and caused him to fall to the ground. While the victim was on the ground, all three suspects kicked him in the ribs and back numerous times. Bystanders from the restaurant ran out and chased the suspects away. The victim was treated by medics on scene. A firefighter recovered the victims' belongings, which were dropped by one of the suspects.

*On Jan. 5 at 12:32 p.m. at the corner of San Bruno Avenue and Dwight Street, several Bayview officers investigating an incident in a residence near San Bruno Avenue heard a loud crash and ran outside. They saw a car speeding away from a collision. A description was radioed to officers in the field, and officers begân searching for the suspect vehicle. Ab officer located the vehicle and followed it, informing all other units of its location. The suspect sped away from the officer and crashed again, into car on San Bruno Ave. The crash caused the suspects' car to flip over on its side. The suspect driver crawled out of the car window and ran down the street but was taken into custody a short time later. Two officers sustained minor injuries during the foot pursuit. At 7:56 p.m. on the 200 block of Blythdale Avenue, sn officer investigated a Domestic Violence incident and arrested a 43 year-old Sunnydale man for felony battery.

*On Jan. 7 at 11:50 a.m. on the 500 block of Carter Street, a car's owner reported that his roommate took his car without permission. The car was reported stolen. A neighbor later reported that the stolen car had been used in a hit and run traffic collision 10 hours earlier on the same block.

*On Jan. 8 at 2:40 a.m. on the200 block of Rey Street, an officer investigated a Domestic Violence incident and named a 59 year-old Sunnydale man as a suspect. At 8:15 a.m. on the first block of Teddy Avenue, a burglary occurred sometime during December 2008. A realtor reported that suspects entered by breaking through back door. Kitchen cabinets, a stove, abath tub, and a sink were taken. At 4:15 p.m. at Bayshore Boulevard and Arleta Avenue, a Visitacion Valley teenager reported that a robber hit him in the head and took his portable Playstation as they rode a Muni bus together. The robber was described as an Asian male, 5'7" tall, 120 pounds, wearing a black sweater and black jeans.

*On Jan. 10 at 2:30 a.m. on the 1700 block of Sunnydale Avenue, an officer investigated a fight between two women and named a 25 year-old Sunnydale resident as a suspect in a felony assault case. At 5:05 p.m. at Kelloch and Velasco avenues, a police sergeant saw a car fleeing the scene of a report of shots being fired. The car was found abandoned on the first block of Blythdale Avenue. The sergeant ordered a surveillance and plain clothes officers arrested the car's owner about an hour later after a foot chase. The owner, a 24 year-old Vallejo resident, was cited for interfering with an investigation. No one was hurt in the shooting and no gun was found. At 9:55 p.m. on the1800 block of Sunnydale Avenue, an officer investigated a Domestic Violence incident and named a 44 year-old Bayview District man as a suspect in a felony battery case. At 11:15 p.m. on the 3300 block of San Bruno Avenue, a 25 year-old Visitacion Valley woman was thrown into a fence and restrained by a robber who took her money. The robberwas described as a black male in his late teens, 6'1" tall, 170 pounds, wearing a black sweatshirt with orange designs.

*On Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. on the 300 block of Sawyer Street, officers stopped a motorist for an equipment violation and conducted a probation search of the 20 year-old Sunnydale man's car. They arrested him for possessing the bag of cocaine found in the vehicle. At 7:25 p.m. on the 900 block of Rutland Street, a 20 year-old Visitacion Valley man was forced into a doorway and beaten about the head by two robbers who took his money. The robbers were described as Latin males in their late teens wearing black clothing.

*On Jan. 15 at 2:40 p.m. on the 1500 block of Sunnydale Avenue, officers stopped a motorist for impeding the flow of traffic. A passenger in the car fled the scene with a gun in his hand. An officer gave chase and saw the passenger, a 16 year-old Sunnydale male, throw the gun to the roof of a building. The officer recovered the gun, a loaded pistol, and other officers arrested the teenager. Another officer arrested the driver, a 21 year-old Sunnydale man, for allowing his passenger to have the gun.

*On Jan. 17 at 12 midnight on the 1800 block of Sunnydale Avenue, an officer investigated a Domestic Violence incident and named a 22 year-old Sunnydale man as a suspect in a felony battery case. At 11:25 p.m. on the 100 block of Brookdale Avenue, three men confronted another man in front of the victim's mother's house. The trio forced the victim into the home and brandished a gun. The robbers took valuables from the home and fled. They were described as black males in their early 20s, all were wearing black hood sweatshirts and black jeans.

*On Jan. 18 at 2:05 a.m. on Carrizal Street, a man tending to his overheated car was approached by two other men. One of the pair produced a gun and robbed the victim of his belongings. The robbers fled on foot; they were described as black males in their early 20s, wearing black hooded sweatshirts and bandanas over their faces.

*On Jan. 19 at 1:50 p.m. on the 1500 block of Sunnydale Avenue, officers saw a man exit a car, produce a gun, and fire shots. The man pointed the gun at the officers when he saw them. Help was summoned and a foot chase ensued. The suspect, a 19 year-old Sunnydale man, was arrested in a nearby home. The driver of the car fled in the vehicle. No one was injured in the shooting. A police sergeant of the Gang Task Force took over the investigation.

*On Jan. 20 at 8:15 p.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, an officer investigated a Domestic Violence incident and named a 33 year-old San Francisco man as a suspect in a felony battery case.

*On Jan. 21 at 9:45 a.m. on the 1800 block of Sunnydale Avenue, an officer investigated a family fight and arrested an 18 year-old Sunnydale woman for threatening her brother with an iron and a knife. At 11:15 p.m. on the 200 block of Girard Street, officers responded to a call regarding a burglary. Officers met with a reportee, who stated that a storage locker, used by a store, was broken into and wooden shelves were taken. No suspects were located.

*On Jan. 22 at 2 p.m.on the 2400 block of San Bruno Avenue, an officer from the San Bruno foot patrol responded to the Bank of America on a robbery in progress call with numerous other Bayview officers. When the officer arrived, the suspect was gone. The Robbery Detail responded and took over the investigation. At 3 p.m. at Argonaut and Burr avenues, officers stopped a man who matched the description of a person with a gun. The man concealed his hands and walked away from the officers in spite of their commands. The 18 year-old Sunnydale resident threatened the officers' lives as they determined that he was not armed. He was charged with making felony threats. At 5 p.m. along San Bruno Avenue, an officer investigated a child abuse case and named a 19 year-old Visitacion Valley man as a suspect. At 5:17 p.m. on the 100 block of Girard Street, members of Bayview's plainclothes team responded to a call regarding a bank robbery on San Bruno Avenue. A few hours later, an employee of the bank, who was present during the robbery, saw the suspect exit another store near the bank. The employee followed the possible suspect and watched him get into a car. Officers detained the possible suspect, but after an initial investigation, discovered that he was not the bank robbery suspect. Officers located suspected narcotics on the subject and placed him into custody without incident.

*On Oct. 23 at 12 midnight on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, an officer investigated a Domestic Violence incident and arrested a 25 year-old Sunnydale man for felony battery.

*On Oct. 24 at 7:20 p.m. on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue, an officer investigated a Domestic Violence incident and interviewed the victim. She claimed no knowledge of the incident (a friend had called the police). The officer arrested the suspect, a 33 year-old San Francisco man, for violating a court order. The officer later charged the man in a felony case involving the same woman from Jan. 20.

*On Oct. 25 at 7:45 p.m. on the 1500 block of Sunnydale Avenue, officers heard shots fired and found damage to parked cars nearby. No one was injured in the incident.

Police Summaries

*Dec. 26 3 p.m., 200 block of Somerset St., entry made through bedroom door, loss was money and watch.

*Dec. 29: 8 a.m., stolen auto, 200 block of Wheeler Ave., '95 Nissan 240

*Jan. 4. 100 block of Garrison Ave., 18 year-old Sunnydale man detained during investigation of shots fired.

*Jan. 5 400 block of Leland Ave., '87 Toyota Camry recovered

*Jan. 5: 400 block of Raymond Ave., '95 Nissan 240 SX recovered

*Jan. 6. 200 block of Blythdale Ave., battery, suspect known.

*Jan. 6 Leland Ave and Delta St., 44 year-old Iowa man arrested on California parole violation warrant.

*Jan. 8 First block of Blythdale Ave., battery, suspect known.

*Jan. 8 1500 block of Felton St., '95 Honda Accord recovered

*Jan. 10: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., 34 year-old Potrero Distnct man arrested on parole violation warrant.

*Jan. 11: 5:53 p.m., 1500 block of Wayland St., burglary occurred between 8 a.m. and 2:45 p.m., forced entry via front door, computer and camera taken

*Jan. 10: Visitacion Ave. and Desmond St., lost license plate

*Jan. 11. 200 block of Argonaut Ave., shots fired

*Jan. 11. 1800 block of Blythdale Ave., vandalism to building, broken window

See Next Page

Grapevine Classified

VVCC BOARD MEETINGS: Visitacion Valley Community Center (VVCC) regular monthly Board meetings, held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., except December and May, are open to the public. Board members are selected by the mem-bers of the community center with dues currently paid, at the Annual Membership meeting held the 3rd Saturday in May each year. Any vacancies that occur on the Board due to uncompleted 3-year terms of membership are filled by appointment of the remaining Board members. At least 75% of our Board members must reside in Visitacion Valley. Persons interested in Board membership are encouraged to send a letter of interest to: Board of Directors Development Committee, Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. Please let the Board know what you could contribute that will enhance and improve our organization for better service to our community. You will be contacted and your letter will be submitted to the Board for consideration at either the next Annual election or of any available open positions that might occur within the coming year.

GRAPEVINE DISPLAY ADVERTISING: new limited-time rates: Full Page $60, 1/2 Page $33.75, 1/4 Page $18.75; 1/8 Page $10, 1/12 Page $8, 1/16 Page $6. Generous discount for three or more insertions. Call (415) 467-9300 for more details.

Classified: 20 words for $1. Extra line 50 cents. Ad and payment should be received by 15th of prior month at Visitacion Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134

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Police Summaries

*Jan 11: 200 block of Blythdale Ave , 33 year-old Sunnydale woman arrested on local misdemeanor warrant.

*Jan 11: 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave , harassing phone calls

*Jan 11: 1900 block of Sunnydale Ave., criminal threats, suspect known

*Jan 11: 500 block of Wilde St., auto burglary

*Jan. 11: Crocker Amazon Park, 29 year-old Daly City man cited in dog bite case, other dog bitten in stomach and leg

*Jan. 14: 100 block of Brookdale Ave , 36 year-old Sunnydale District man arrested on Santa Clara County and San Mateo County warrants

*Jan. 14: 100 block of Brookdale Ave: '97 Honda Accord recovered

*Jan. 14: Rutland St and Campbell Ave , vandalism to parked car, broken window

*Jan. 15: First block of Blythdale Ave , traffic collision, hit and run, no injuries

*Jan. 15: 100 block of Leland Ave., threats, suspect known

*Jan. 15: 3500 block of San Bruno Ave., battery, suspect unknown

*Jan. 15: 1300 block of Sunnydale Ave., found person, juvenile.

*Jan. 15: First block of Towerside Ave , harassing phone calls.

*Jan. 17: 2100 block of Geneva Ave , 19 year-old Visitacion Valley man arrested on local felony narcotics warrant

*Jan. 17: 400 block of Holyoke St , '94 Acura Integra recovered.

*Jan. 17: Sunnydale Ave. and Santos St , 21 year-old Sunnydale District man arrested for violating a court order

*Jan. 18: 100 block of Brookdale Ave , '96 Honda Prelude recovered

*Jan. 18: 1300 block of Sunnydale Ave., death case, cause unknown

*Jan 19: McLaren Park, traffic collision, hit and run (no injuries). Vehicle left roadway and turned over

*Jan 19: 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave , battery, suspect known.

*Jan. 19: 1900 block of Sunnydale Ave., found person, juvenile.

*Jan. 19: Sunnydale Ave and Hahn St , three juveniles detained for failing to disperse.

*Jan. 19: 700 block of Velasco Ave., fraud, theft of utility services through false account

*Jan. 20: First block of Brookdale Ave., officers found a "cold plate" (unreported stolen license plate) on a "hot car" (stolen vehicle), '04 Acura RSX recovered

*Jan. 20: 1500 block of Sunnydale Ave., harassing phone calls.

*Jan. 21: 1:20 a.m., 1700 block of Sunnydale Ave., burglary occurred between Jan. 20 and 21, forced entry via front door, liquor and cell phone taken

*Jan. 21: Bayshore Blvd and Arleta Ave , traffic collision, Muni bus hit pedestrian in wheelchair

*Jan. 21: Carnizal St , mental health intervention.

*Jan. 21: 200 block of Hahn St., 48 year-old Sunnydale man arrested for vandalizing parked car

*Jan. 21: 300 block of Sawyer St., 42 year-old Visitacion Valley man arrested for violating a court order

*Jan. 21: 1900 block of Sunnydale Ave., 20 year-old Sunnydale man arrested for battery

*Jan. 22: Burr Ave., vandalism to building, graffiti.

*Jan. 22: 100 block of Garrison Ave., vandalism to building, broken window

*Jan. 22: 400 block of Raymond Ave , Richmond (CA) teenagers admonished for trespassing at middle school

*Jan. 22: Silver Ave and Cambridge St , vandalism to parked car, tire slashed.

*Jan. 22: Velasco Ave and Schwerin St., '00 Ford Mustang stolen

*Oct. 23: First block of Ervine St , vehicle strip, tire and wheel taken

*Oct. 23: First block of Leland Ave , missing person, juvenile

*Oct. 23: 200 block of Raymond Ave , '99 Honda Accord recovered

*Oct. 23: 100 block of Santos St , '86 Toyota Camry recovered (Oakland PD case)

*Oct. 24: 100 block of Blythdale Ave , 18 year-old Bernal man cited for trespassing

*Oct. 24: 100 block of Garrison St., '97 Ford Explorer stolen

Captain Denis O'Leary of Ingleside Station and Captain John Loftus of Bayview Station contributed to this report

Neighbors Join Together to Clean Children's Garden

Lots of shoveling, raking, weeing and planting were in order Jan. 19 as the Visitacion Valley community got together to clean up the Greenway' Children's Garden.

Photos: Chris Barnett and Betty Parshall

by Betty Parshall

On Monday, January 19, Martin Luther King's birthday was observed by many communities around the Bay Area with service projects. In Visitacion Valley, more than 50 people came together at the Greenway Children's Garden to pull weeds and do some planting.

The Recreation and Park department supplied tools and trucks to haul away the sacks of weeds, all headed for composting. Also on hand were cool drinks and refreshments. One gang tackled a patch of blackberry, which is extremely invasive, and after strenuous hacking and digging the shout went up, "We got the bush out." Cheers all around.

The Greenway must rely on the neighborhood for maintenance, and regular workdays will be announced in the future. This is an excellent way to get acquainted with neighbors with the added benefits of healthy exercise and valued service.

Celebration of Church and Architect Will Benefit Library

St. James Presbyterian Church will celebrate its anniversary on Apr. 19.

by Betty Parshall

In 1906, dedicated members of the University Mound Presbyterian Church in the Portola district conducted Sunday School extension classes in Visitacion Valley at the Bayshore Hall. In February of that year, they built a small church building on the present church property and continued to hold their Sunday School classes and worship services there. The church was founded.

Two years later, on April 26, 1908, the official recognition of the congregation by the Presbytery with sixty-nine charter members was handed down. Thus, in 2009 the church will observe the 103rd anniversary since the original gathering. Visitacion Valley oral historians told of a gymnasium built on the back of the lot for the recreational use by Valley young people. The neighbors on Raymond Avenue were not very happy with the thumping racket of the basketball games there.

By 1922, the congregation was outgrowing the original building. The womens group, the St. James Guild, spearheaded fund raising efforts, and later the men of the congregation provided labor for the various construction and renovation projects over the years.

By 1923, the original, very small, church building had been moved to a nearby lot and became a private residence, the gymnasium was demolished, and the present church building was completed.

Just a few years ago, it was learned that Julia Morgan was the architect for the new church. Probably the most well known of all American female architects, she designed several Presbyterian churches in the Bay Area as well as multiple buildings for institutions serving women and girls. Her most famous patron was newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, and the most famous of her commissions from him is Hearst Castle at San Simeon. Her life story is a fascinating account of a talented woman who had to work exceptionally hard to overcome the bias against female architects.

On April 19, 2009, St. James Church and the Visitacion Valley History Project are sponsoring a joint celebration of the church anniversary and this local work of Julia Morgan. Mark Wilson, author of a book about Morgan's works, will provide a presentation, and there will also be historical pictures on display and refreshments. Admission to this event will be $15 for tickets sold in advance, with admission on the day $20. All proceeds will benefit the Visitacion Valley Library Fund.

Save the date and plan to enjoy a lively and interesting afternoon at this historical Valley building.

Month of Celebration For Black History

From Page 1

Although the patent drawing depicts the Love Sharpener as quite plain, Love wrote that it could also be designed in a very ornate fashion and it could also be used as a disk ornament or paperweight. The sharpener was patented on November 23, 1897.

George Grant was an avid golfer who was also interest in the physics of golfing. He set about to improve the game of golf and as a result he received U.S. patent No. 638,920 on December 12, 1899, for an improved golf tee. George Grant was also recognized internationally for his invention of the oblate palate, a prosthetic device he designed for the treatment of the cleft palate.

George Washington Carver is perhaps one of the best known of African-American inventors. He invented peanut butter, adhesives, bleach, chili sauce, ink, instant coffee, linoleum, mayonnaise, paper, plastic, pavement, shaving cream, talcum powder and more.

Granville T. Woods was another very innovative inventor. He came up with improvements to electric railways, air brakes, telephones and telegraphs, as well as a chicken egg incubator and an apparatus for an amusement park ride.

Garrett A. Morgan invented the gas mask and the automatic traffic signal, someone to remember as you wait for the light to change. And here's one for the youngsters, Lonnie Johnson invented the Super Soaker squirt gun, and also invented thermodynamics systems on the side.

Elijah McCoy is best known for having invented the automatic oil cup. During his life, he invented and sold 57 different kinds of devices and machine parts including an ironing board and a lawn sprinkler.

His first invention was a lubricator for steam engines (U.S patent 129,843), which was issued on July 12, 1872.

Sarah Boone invented an ironing board too, designed for ironing sleeves. Her patent was issued December 30, 1887.

The list goes on and on, and during this month in particular we can say thank you for all the benefits conferred by these talented, innovative people.

Nation's First Green Rental Car Program

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Business Thinking Local

Marketing to customers in the neighborhood used to be as easy as putting up a sign. But today's Web-savvy consumers are now searching and shopping for products and services locally on the Internet.

Using a local search engine is the best way to advertise your business online. Not only can you target customers in a specific area, you can maximize your marketing investment through highly specific targeting using the right keywords and search phrases to pull customers to your site and your front door. To learn more, call 888-723-9271 or visit www.local.com.

NAPS

Grapevine Puzzler Currencies of the World

C	F	G	T	Y	U	I	H	F	G	F	R	A	N	I	D	S	F	G	H
C	D	R	T	Y	U	I	O	U	T	E	S	F	G	H	J	Y	U	I	O
Z	A	N	E	P	R	T	Y	Y	A	U	I	O	J	H	G	F	L	D	G
C	D	F	E	T	Y	U	I	L	T	U	W	R	Y	R	E	R	O	Y	U
X	D	S	R	Y	T	A	Y	S	U	E	E	N	D	F	C	V	S	H	J
C	O	F	G	H	N	J	H	T	N	Y	U	I	O	G	R	J	W	G	J
S	D	F	G	U	D	I	H	A	I	P	U	R	D	W	X	A	E	F	G
X	C	V	R	C	L	V	G	D	F	G	I	G	H	J	H	B	N	C	V
A	S	O	D	L	F	G	N	H	Y	N	F	G	H	J	K	N	B	C	V
A	K	S	I	D	F	U	G	H	T	F	A	G	O	F	G	H	J	K	C
C	D	N	D	E	O	R	T	Y	O	G	H	U	J	R	H	J	B	H	X
Z	G	G	O	P	E	R	T	E	I	Y	T	Y	Y	F	U	G	O	F	X
A	D	F	L	G	H	H	L	T	Z	Y	U	I	O	J	H	E	L	F	R
B	C	D	L	E	R	B	T	Y	U	I	R	T	Y	U	I	E	I	G	I
A	D	F	A	K	U	D	T	Y	U	I	T	E	Y	P	K	P	V	F	N
H	V	F	R	R	E	R	N	D	Y	F	N	R	T	E	R	U	A	G	G
T	S	D	F	O	I	R	T	A	T	O	H	J	H	S	D	R	R	F	G
S	A	W	E	N	R	L	L	D	R	R	T	S	G	O	F	D	F	H	I
D	A	W	E	A	D	F	G	K	G	H	J	G	F	C	X	T	Y	V	T
F	X	C	D	F	G	M	A	H	R	I	D	X	C	V	F	D	E	D	A

Baht	Forint	New	Real	Shekel
Bolivar	Franc	Peso	Ringgit	Shilling
Dinar	Koruna	New Sol	Riyal	Won
Dirham	Krona	Peso	Ruble	Yen
Dollar	Krone	Pound	Rupee	Yuan
Euro	Lira	Rand	Rupiah	Zioty

Historic Proportions

1863

Match clues to answers.

1. Sixteen countries met to form this in Geneva on Oct. 29.
2. Resolutions of this were signed in late October.
3. First claim under this on Jan. 1 for a farm in Nebraska.
4. President Lincoln delivered this speech on Nov. 19.
5. The 35th U.S. state admitted on June 20..
6. First section of this opened Jan. 10.
7. Ground broken for this in Sacramento on Jan. 8.
8. President signed this on Jan. 1.
9. President Lincoln signed this into law on Feb. 26.
10. First successful submarine sunk during Oct. 15 test.
11. Organized Feb. 24 as a United States territory.
12. Organized Mar. 3 by U.S. Congress

A. Arizona
B. National Currency Act
C. Gettysburg Address
D.CSS Hunley
E. London Underground Railway
F. Geneva International Conference
G. Idaho Territory
H. International Red Cross
I. Homestead Act
J. Transcontinental Railroad
K. Emancipation Proclamation
L. West Virginia

Answers: 1-H, 2-F, 3-I, 4-C, 5-L, 6-E, 7-J, 8-K, 9-B, 10-D, 11-A, 12-G.

As a Matter of Fact

*During her lifetime, the novelist Jane Austen had difficulty finding a publisher. As a result, two of her works (Northanger Abbey and Persuasion (were not published until after her death.

*In 1853, William R.D. King became the first Vice President to take the oath of office in a foreign country. He was sworn-in while in Cuba.

*The wood stork, also known as the wood ibis, is the only true stork native to the United States.

Grapevine Five Years Ago

FEBRUARY 2004

*The Visitacion Valley Planning Alliance announced it would be placing several attractive concrete planter boxes adjacent to select neighborhood businesses this spring.

*The Greenway and California Academy of Sciences began coordinating a program to work with local children to bring the Academy's invaluable expertise to Visitacion Valley and make the entire Greenway an outdoor classroom.

*Work on Muni's Third Street Light Rail Project to reconstruct the US 101/Third Street overpass continued to require northbound and southbound portions of the freeway to be closed five nights a week.

Sez Who?

Match quotes to speakers.

1. "No great racing driver has been known for his modesty."
2. "The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army or in an office."
3. "Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you sit down quietly, may alight upon you."
4. "It is not the strength but the duration of great sentiments that makes great men."
5. "What I like in a good author is not what he says, but what he whispers."
6. "As a general thing, people marry quite happily with their own kind. The trouble lie in the fact that people usually marry at an age when they do not really know what their own kind is."
7. "People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on it this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want and if they can't find them, make them."
8. "The wisest thing to do with a fool is to encourage him to hire a hall and discourse to his fellow citizens. Nothing chills nonsense like exposure to the air."
9. "Always behave like a duck (keep calm and unruffled on the surface but paddle like the devil underneath."

A. Nathaniel Hawthorne
B. Brock Yates
C. Logan Pearsall Smith
D. George Bernard Shaw
E. Woodrow Wilson
F. Dwight D. Eisenhower
G. Jacob Braude
H. Friedrich Nietzsche
I. Robertson Davies

Answers: 1-B; 2-F; 3-A; 4-H; 5-C; 6-I; 7-D; 8-E; 9-C.

Sump, the Gump

Baby Boomers

by Rix Quinn

Predictions

Yes, it's that time when you read loads of predictions for the new year. So, this writer — who tracks Boomer interests — also offers a few thoughts for you to consider or discard. Here — according to our very unofficial survey — are some things Boomers are thinking about in 2008:

1. The economy — How well will the newly-elected Congress and Senate work together to solve current economic problems?
2. Social Security — Millions of it will qualify for this in the next five to ten years. Our questions: How will it be altered or changed to meet our growing needs, and should we collect it early, or later?
3. Investments — What should we do with our savings and investment funds?
4. Housing — How will the current market affect us?
5. College and other advanced education — How should we advise our children? What careers will be most in demand during the next two decades?

Favorite Grade

Although our panel of Boomers voted fourth grade as their favorite in elementary school, they enjoyed several others too.

"Fifth grade," said D.L. "None of the worries like graduating to middle school, or the pressure to have an official girlfriend. We were at the top of the food chain. Class seemed very easy, and I had an older, experienced teacher who let us get by with way too much."

"In fifth grade," L.H. remembered, "my parents took me on two educational trips, the first one a historically rich tour of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. The second trip I had a wonderful visit to Mexico City."

"I liked sixth grade best," said D.C. "I made straight A's, played all sports, and joined Boy Scouts. I was captain of the patrol boys. And I really liked my teacher."

Elementary School

One Boomer's memory of his elementary school years: "We lived in a neighborhood full of Boomers about my age. It seems like we were always together. On school days we met about 8 AM in the middle of the block, and prepared for our walk to the school, about 20 minutes away.

"There might be seven or eight of us on busy days. This was a fun time, because everybody had some gossip to share about classes, teachers, friends, or family. We were very careful about crossing busy streets, and early-morning commuters drove slowly and paid attention to all those children heading for school.

"And I especially remember neighborhood dogs along our path. Back then, there were no fence or leash laws, so there were lots of dogs to greet us as we walked."

Comparing Boomers

One frequent question we get: "What do older Boomers (those born 1946-1955) have in common with younger Boomers (born 1956-1964)?"

In our research, we've found the two age groups share these traits:

1. A large percentage were born to parents who entered adulthood before World War II.
2. They often attended classes where there were 28 students or more in a classroom.
3. They grew up in a fairly competitive classroom environment because there were so many students during that time period.
4. Many reported the joy of feeling free to move easily about their neighborhoods, where they felt safe. Some also said that they walked or rode their bicycles to school each day, and would often stop on the way home for snacks or refreshments.
5. Both groups said they often belonged to a number of after-school organizations, or that they were active in high school sports, drama, or academic competitions.

Education

Baby Boomers have been defined as an upwardly mobile group. Huge numbers of us sensed we needed education ... and lots of it.

A study by the U.S. Census Bureau found that "The proportion of Americans with at least a bachelors' degree grew five-fold from 1950 to 2003, from 3.4 to 17.4 percent. The percentage completing high school quadrupled from 1950 to 2003, from 17 to 71.5 percent."

Poor Rix Almanac

by Rix Quinn

Dear Poor Rix: Does anything really important happen in February? – History Student

Lots of good stuff happened in February. Here's a partial list:

In 1913 Congress passed the amendment to tax our incomes. If you've paid taxes since 1913, you are now likely very poor and very old.

All February is Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month. (Poor Rix never stole a cart, but is reminded to return some library books checked out in 1997.)

This month we also celebrate Robinson Crusoe Day. The story was based on a sailor who argued with his captain, and got dropped on a semi-deserted island

So, let this be a lesson: If you backtalk the boss, you could end up with a friend named Friday, but nothing to do the rest of the week.

Did you know we celebrate the 1744 birthday of the first weatherman, John Jeffries? Some claim he died of high temperature. Others say it was low pressure. A few friends were unwilling to make a prediction, but were pretty sure he was under the weather.

Carl Wilhelm Grimm celebrated a February birthday in 1786. He and brother Jacob compiled the time-honored "Grimms' Fairy Tales." Even though he died long ago, we'll always remember him as a mything person.

Finally, did you know that in 1893 a historic motion picture — the recording of a sneeze — was captured on film? It didn't have much of a plot, but it's real fun to watch...especially if you run it backward.

Hey, Poor Rix: What should I give my special someone for Valentine's Day? – Jessica

Millions celebrate February 14 by giving flowers, candy, and cards to express romantic love. And some buy presents for their spouses, too.

Yes, Valentine's Day offers ladies the opportunity to declare affectionate thoughts with a lovely card. Most men, however, know they should spend a lot of money, or else they might be in a lot of pain.

In ancient times, prehistoric man gave his girlfriend a practical gift – like a goat – to show admiration. His girlfriend and her family could feed from it. This was called "milking a compliment."

It's speculated that Valentine's Day originated 2500 years ago as Lupercalia, a festival to honor the god Lupercus with a lottery. Young ladies put their names in a giant container, and young men randomly drew a partner.

At the end of a year – if the man wasn't either married or dead – he could draw for a different partner. About this same time, the card-giving tradition started too. Postage was real cheap back then, because air mail was delivered by pigeon.

Today, just about everybody celebrates Valentine's Day. Elementary school children exchange cards with classmates. Middle schoolers write anonymous notes to their secret crushes. Older teens might bestow presents, kisses, or mononucleosis.

If you're a guy, here are three hints:

1. Buy your girlfriend a corsage.
2. Pick out a real mushy card for her. Look for romantic messages full of words like "sweet," "love," or "honey." Avoid rhymes that contain the words "contagious," "alien," or "burp."
3. Finally, take her to a nice restaurant for dinner... but go indoors, don't use the drive-through.

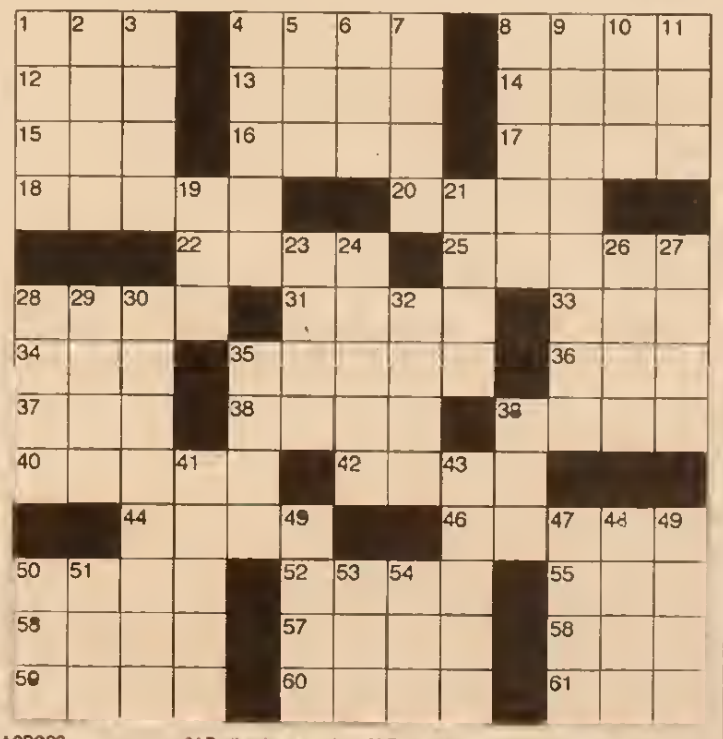
Teen Scrapbooking at Valley Branch Library

Can you shape your memories or dreams with scraps, paper and glue? It's All About You: Teen Scrapbooking, an event for ages 12-18, will take place on Thursday, Feb. 5 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Visitacion Valley Branch Library, 45 Leland Ave.:

Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring scraps, pictures or photos that inspire you. For information or to register, contact Abby Harwood at (415) 355-5660 or aharwood@sfpl.org.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 6



ACROSS
1 Calyx lead
6 Arabic letter
9 Vigor
12 Dodge
13 Presidential nickname
14 Amateur Boxing Assn. (abbr.)
15 Gr. Poetic toot
16 Physician
17 Fellow
18 Boil
20 5th Incarnation of Vishnu
22 Ancient ascetic
24 Sheep's cry
27 Indian ground salt
28 Guided missile
32 Cuckoo point
34 Brythonic sea god
36 Eelworm
37 Handwriting on the wall
39 Pasture
41 First-rate
42 Luncheon
44 Gum
47 Layers
52 Narrower than AA
53 Computer generated imagery (abbr.)
55 Opponent
56 Scot. alder tree
57 This one (Lat.)
58 Rate of interest (Lat.)
59 Light-emitting diode (abbr.)
60 Thus (Lat.)
61 Middle

DOWN
1 Sx (Sp.)
2 Revelry cry
3 Stamp-sheet segment
4 Mine entrance
5 Satyr
6 Papa
7 Over
8 Pour off gently
9 Site of Second Punic War's end
10 Dayak people
11 Spotted cavy
19 Ass or donkey (Ger.)
21 Chin. Flour
23 Ledge
24 Floor covering
25 One hundred square meters
26 Bird
29 Hyson
30 Television channel
31 No (Scot.)
33 Change (pref.)
35 Muslim ship's captain
38 Nut
40 Sinus cavity
43 Bundle of twigs
44 Semitic deity
45 Berne's river
46 Territory
48 Increase
49 Grandfather (Lat.)
50 Body of water
51 Wings
54 Amazon tributary

Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code
Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300

AQUARIUM
DRAGON CITY AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave., 333-4998
AUTOMOTIVE
BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130
BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239
BROTHER'S AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd
CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2550 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450
TW AUTOMOTIVE, 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281
BANK
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave. 622-4501
BAKERS
LITTLE OUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253
BARBERS
BARBERSHOP, 3570 San Bruno Ave., 724-4398
EMMA'S HAIR SALON, 35 Leland Ave., 587-7429
THE SHOP (JB), 160A Leland Ave., 239-6709
BEAUTICIANS
BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261
CONNIE'S HAIR, 2436 Bayshore Blvd., 586-8288
FACE, BODY & SOUL, 3582 San Bruno Ave., 467-3223
HONG KONG HAIR & NAIL BEAUTY SALON, 199 Leland Ave., 333-1005
NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800
SHERRY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381
WHO'S BADD, 224 Leland Ave., 657-3156
BLIND CLEANING
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Girard St., 467-7506
BOARDING HOUSE
ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rutland St., 333-4664, fax 333-4693
BOOKKEEPERS
AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927
VERNA WALLACE E.A., 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333
CARPETS
HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave., 333-6382
CHURCHES
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5950
IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave.
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213
RIDGE VIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave., 467-6055
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503
COFFEE
CANDLESTICK COFFEE, 2156 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2442
HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 469-5309
JOE LELAND CAFE, 28 Leland Ave
CREDIT UNION
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 29 Leland Ave., 434-0738
DAY CARE
CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St., 469-5353
DENTIST
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5500
DEVELOPERS
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7895
ELECTRICAL
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657
FLOORS
TEDDY B's HARDWOOD FLOORS, 309-6342
FLORISTS
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave 468-0145
GARDEN ORNAMENTS
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990
GROCERS
CASA LOPEZ PRODUCE, 58 Leland Ave. 586-4745
E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300
LA LOMA PRODUCE #2, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815
M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878
PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851
SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6856
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave
HERBS
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave 333-7469
HYPNOTHERAPY
VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave 468-5631
INSURANCE
EDIE EPPS (A.H.E. INSURANCE), 467-0236, Fax 467-0276
ROBERT LEHMAN, CLTC (Blue Cross), 333-0850
KITCHEN CABINETS
LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, 25 Leland Ave., 333-2730
LANDSCAPING
SAN FRANCISCO LANDSCAPES, 256 Talbert St., 585-9137, sflanscapes.com
LAUNDRY/CLEANERS
BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave
CITY WASH, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467
COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave
FORTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418
LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave, 586-1412
VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave
VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030
LEARNING
FIRST PLACE 2 START, 1252 Sunnydale Ave., 333-2659
HERITAGE HOMES CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 245 Rey St., 586-8700
JOHN KING CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 500 Raymond Ave., 333-1375
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER CHILDRENS PROGRAMS, 103 Tucker Ave., 467-5565
VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 585-9320
LIBRARY
VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH 45 Leland Ave., 239-5270
MANUFACTURER
SEE'S CANDIES, INC., 345 Schwenn St
MEDICAL
AMERICAN REO CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave., 584-3620
HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept. of Public Health), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., Appointments 715-0310
OR SAM HO, MD 2858 San Bruno Ave., 337-6135
NEW CARNIVAL ACUPRESSURE HEALTH CENTER, 2458 Bayshore Blvd., 337-8100
NORTH EAST MEDICAL SERVICES, LELAND AVENUE, 82 Leland Ave., 391-9686 (ask for Leland Avenue clinic)
PORTOLA FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC (Dr. Divyang Patel) 2858 San Bruno Ave 467-7500
NOTARY
ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE, 46 Leland Ave., 333-4900
ORGANIZATIONS
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 2442 Bayshore Blvd., 587-2689
WILLIE L. BROWN, JR. TEEN CENTER, 1652 Sunnydale Ave., 584-6099
GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave., 584-2700
GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnydale Ave., 333 Schwenn St., 584-4044
JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233
LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 405-2000
ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave., 333-4001
SUNNYDALE DEVELOPMENT COO OFFICE, 1652 Sunnydale Ave., 841-1683
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave 467-4499
PHARMACY
VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave., 239-5811
PHOTOGRAPHER
WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 435 Sawyer St., 587-9471, fax 337-8620
PLUMBING
MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arleta Ave., 467-7401
POST OFFICE
VISITACION USPO, 68 Leland Ave., (800) 275-8777
REAL ESTATE
JUSTYNA P TO, (Realtor, Coldwell Banker), (650) 757-8868, Mobile (415) 830-1235, Fax (650) 246-1910
LaFLUE-WALTON & ASSOCIATES, 2428 Bayshore Blvd., 587-8683
CATHY KLINE SAUNDERS (Zephyr Real Estate), 215 West Portal Ave 731-5011 ex. 163
RESTAURANTS
BAYSIDE CAFE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2023
HAPPY FAMILY FAST FOOD, 107 Leland Ave., 333-8999
G & L BAKERY & RESTAURANT, 198 Leland Ave., 239-6283
LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave., 585-1167
NAYANT TAQUERIA, 98 Leland Ave., 587-7721
TWO JACK'S, 167 Leland Ave., 337-0433
SCULPTOR
CARTORIGINALS (Mikal Carter), 2 Hahn St., 239-4138
SELF-DEVELOPMENT
DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS (Marjorie Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist) 467-7608
SERVICE PROVIDERS
THE VILLAGE, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5045
VISITACION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH OUTREACH CENTER, 57 Leland Ave.
VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING, 120 Leland Ave.
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VVCC), 50 Raymond Ave., 467-6400
VVCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave, 586-6998, Fax 586-8027
VISITACION VALLEY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTREACH TO MERCHANTS (VVBOOM), 91 Leland Ave. 585 2338
TELEPHONE
O & A WIRELESS, 78 Leland Ave., 452-4139
VARIETY
GOLDEN '99 CENTS ZONE, 5-7 Leland Ave., 333-3923

Tax Exemption and Deduction Options

by Jason Alderman

About the only upside when the cost of living increases is that every year the IRS readjusts personal tax exemptions, standard deduction amounts and retirement account contribution limits. It's not like winning the lottery, but I'll take all the good news I can get.

Among the changes that might help your tax situation in 2009 are:

*Exemptions and deductions. The personal federal tax exemption you may claim for yourself and dependents increases $150 to $3,650 each in 2009. The standard tax deduction for singles increases to $5,700 (up $250 from 2008); for those who are married and filing jointly, it's now $11,400 (up $500); and for heads of households, it's $8,350 (up $350).

*Defined contribution plan limits. The maximum annual contribution you can make to a 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plan increases from $15,500 to $16,500. Plus, if you're over age 50 you can contribute an additional $5,500 per year – up $500 from 2008. Also, the annual limit for combined employee and employer contributions rises from $46,000 to $49,000.

*Keep in mind that making pretax contributions to these plans reduces your taxable income, which in turn lowers your taxes. To learn more about how 401(k), 403(b) and 457 plans work, go to Visa Inc.'s free personal financial management site, Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/benefits).

*Defined benefit plan limits. The annual limit on how much you can receive from a defined benefit (traditional pension) plan increases from $185,000 to $195,000.

*Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). The maximum amount you can contribute to a regular or Roth IRA remains unchanged from 2008 at $5,000 (those aged 50 and older can contribute an additional $1,000).

*Retirement saving contribution credit. Low- and moderate-income workers who contribute to an IRA or company-sponsored plan may be eligible for a savers credit of up to $1,000 ($2,000 if filing jointly), in addition to any other tax savings. Qualifying income ceiling limits rise to $55,500 for joint filers, $41,625 for heads of household, and $27,750 for singles or married persons filing separately. Consult Form 8880 at www.irs.gov for more information

*SIMPLE plans. The employee contribution limit for these small-employer plans, which resemble 401(k) plans, increases $1,000 to $11,500. Those over age 50 can make up to $2,500 in catch-up contributions.

*Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA plans. In these plans, your employer (or you, if you're self-employed) contributes directly to an IRA on your behalf. The annual minimum wage for participation increases to $550 and the maximum contribution allowed is a percentage of pay (25 percent for companies; 20 percent if self-employed) up to an annual pay limit of $245,000 – a $15,000 increase from 2008.

*College tax credit. You may be able to claim a Hope credit of up to $1,800 for qualified education expenses paid for each eligible student during their first two years of post-secondary education for the 2008-2009 school year. And you may be able to deduct up to $2,500 a year from your taxes for qualified student loan interest.

*Social Security wage base. The maximum earnings amount subject to Social Security tax has increased to $106,800, from $102,000 in 2008. As in past years, there is no maximum wage amount subject to taxation for Medicare.

*Consult a financial advisor for other tax credits or deductions for which you may be eligible. When it comes to paying taxes, the more you know, the more you can save.

Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs.

Visitacion Valley Family and Community Services Center

For a Better, Healthier, Safer Community for All

We Can Help You!

Complete Immigraiton documents, assist with SF County paperwork (Medi-Cal, Welfare, etc.) , education workshops, referrals to other services

Multicultural Day 2009
Thursday, February 19, 5 to 8 p.m.
Visitacion Valley Middle School
450 Raymond Ave.
Celebrate the Diversity of Visitacion Valley in an evening of entertainment and education.

After School Program Parent Meeting & Workshop
Wednesday, February 11,
5:30 - 7 p.m. at 50 Raymond Ave.

First Series Hands on Literacy Parent/Child Interactive Group
"Celebrate Valentines"
Thursday, February 12, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
at VVCC Library, 45 Leland Ave.

Whole Family Literacy
Thursday, February 25, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
"Literacy Everywhere, Part II"
at 500 Raymond Ave.

Every Wednesday
February 4, 11, 18 and 25
6 - 8 p.m.

Men's Classes
Facilitated by
Before The After
FREE Refreshments

Free Food Distribution
Every Monday,
3 - 4 p.m.
February 2, 9 and 23
Emergency food box available anytime.
Call (415) 586-6998,
Monday-Friday,
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

February 2009 Activities
held at 161 Leland Avenue
except where noted

Enhanced Information and Referral
Every Monday Through Friday
February 1 to 28, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Parents Support Group
Thursday, February 19, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
"Be the Change Consulting"
Featuring Guest Speaker Sangita Kumar

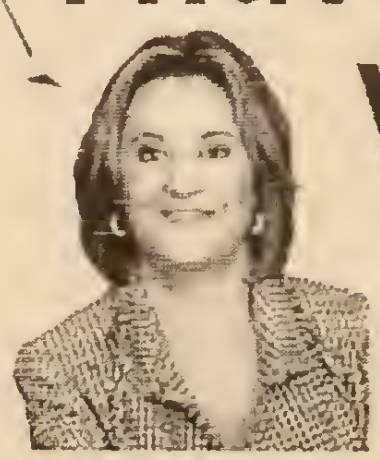
Male Involvement Group
Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Parent Education Workshop
Thursday, February 26, 4 to 6 p.m.
"Lead Prevention" with David Ho of the DPH

Family and Community Services Center staff:
Meriam Abalos, Marichelle Punzalan,
Jenny Sosa and Jack Kwong

161 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134
Tel: (415) 586-6998 Fax: (415) 586-8027 e-mail: meriam_vvcc@sbcglobal.net

I have been studying Visitacion Valley for a long Time.



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